Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-201 *18 October 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Israel To Allow 'Some' Expelled Palestinians Into Gaza

NC1710164495 Paris AFP in English
1609 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (AFP) — Around 100 Palestinians expelled from Libya and trapped at its border with Egypt will be allowed to travel to the Gaza Strip under a deal struck with Israel, a Palestinian diplomat said Tuesday [17 October].

PLO head Yasir 'Arafat "has reached an agreement with Israeli authorities to accept some 100 expelled Palestinians into Gaza," the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP. "They will go to Gaza in a week."

Israel controls entry into the self-rule area of Gaza.

The 100 are among nearly 1,000 Palestinians trapped in a camp in no man's land between Libya and Egypt after Cairo refused them entry because they were unable to transit directly into Gaza or Jordan.

A Libyan diplomat said earlier on Tuesday that "Palestinians in the camp will be able to return to Libya if they want and Libyan authorities will help their return."

The decision to allow back the Palestinians stranded for the last two weeks was part of an agreement reached with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who met Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi earlier this month, he said.

A group of 13 students from the camp were allowed back into Libya on Monday, Palestinians at the camp told AFP.

Al-Qadhdhafi began at the start of September to expel his country's 30,000 Palestinians in a bid to show that the PLO's self- rule accords with Israel had failed to establish a viable Palestinian homeland.

Syria Turns Away Palestinian Deportees' Ship

NC1710210595 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek
2000 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 330 children and newborn babies are included in the 650 Palestinians who have been in Larnaca since this morning aboard the ship that transported them from Syria. The Palestinians were deported from Libya, which disagrees with [Palestinian leader Yasir] 'Arafat's handling of the agreement with Israel and were taken to Syria, but were not accepted there.

The ship's first officer told CyBC [Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation] that all the passengers are well, have no problems, and the ship has enough food, medicine, and other supplies. He also denied reports that the passengers faced food and water shortages. The governor said that based on assurances by the company that owns the ship, he hopes the issue will be settled by tomorrow morning.

PLO Contacts Syria, Libya To End Plight

NC1810101095 Paris AFP in English
0920 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 18 (AFP) — PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority is in touch with Syria and Cyprus to seek an end to the plight of 660 Palestinians stranded off Cyprus, a senior official said Wednesday [18 October].

"We are in contact now with everyone," said Samir Ghawshah, Palestinian minister of labor.

Palestinian officials were talking to "Syrian, Libyan and Cypriot authorities in order to solve this issue," he told AFP. The Cypriot-flagged, Greek-owned Countess M ship carrying 660 Palestinians expelled from Libya has been stranded off Cyprus since Tuesday, after being turned away from Syria. Some 332 children were among those on board.

The Palestinians were expelled from Libya on Friday by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as part of his policy to show up the failure of the PLO-Israel autonomy accords. So far Lebanon and Syria have blocked entry to the expelled Palestinians.

According to the ship's captain George Kolidas, most of the passengers have Syrian travel documents.

Ghawshah said part of the efforts included "trying to see the reasons for their explusions, and what documents they hold. "According to that, we will seek a rapid solution."

He did not specify whether the Palestinians could come to Gaza. According to the autonomy deal, Israel controls the entry of all travelers to Gaza.

Palestinian ambassador to Cyprus Samir (eds. correct) Abu- Ghazalah earlier said talks were going on with the Cypriot authorities to allow the Palestinians to disembark, although he was not hopeful. Contacts were also underway with Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority in Gaza to see if they could take them, he added.

About 5,000 Palestinians have so far been thrown out of Libya from among the 30,000-strong community.

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Another 1,000 have been trapped for more than two weeks in a no-man's land between Egypt and Libya, where the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported Tuesday that conditions were deteriorating. [passage omitted]

Libya Begins To Allow Palestinians To Return

NC1710132795 Paris AFP in English
1250 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt-Libya Border, Oct 17 (AFP) — Libya has started to allow Palestinians it expelled to a no-man's land on the border with Egypt to go back, a spokesman for the deportees said Tuesday [17 October].

Abu-Tariq said 13 students, from a group of 1,000 trapped Palestinians, had been authorized on Monday to return to Libyan universities. "The authorities in Tripoli have also promised to allow another group to return," he told AFP.

A Libyan diplomat, meanwhile, said the Palestinians in the tent camp could now head back to Libya and would be helped by the authorities.

"It is not an about-turn in Libyan policy. On the contrary, it considers that the action was a victory because it managed to draw attention to the problem of Palestinian refugees," he said, asking not to be named.

The diplomat said the decision to allow back the Palestinians stranded for the last two weeks was part of an agreement reached with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who met Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi earlier this month.

Libya's decision to drop its bid for a seat on the UN Security Council in favour of a "brother country," announced earlier on Tuesday, was also linked, he said. The diplomat did not elaborate.

Al-Qadhdhafi decided at the start of September to expel 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya to show the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords have failed to produce a Palestinian homeland.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday distributed food, water and blankets at the Palestinian camp, the organisation's spokesman Pannos Moutzis said. A UNHCR legal expert arrived in the camp the next day to examine the travel papers of the expelled group to see if the organisation can help them find a new home.

Libya has agreed to halt the expulsion of Palestinians but the fate of the 1,000 stranded has yet to be resolved, the Arab League said Monday. It said the Cairo-Tripoli accord applied only to Palestinians still living in Libya. At least 5,000 have already left the country, apart from the stranded.

Israel still controls the borders of the self-ruled Gaza Strip and Palestinians entering the area have to have Israeli-issued entry permits proving they live there.

So far Egypt has banned those without the necessary permits from crossing its territory for Gaza or the West Bank.

Arab League Chief Welcomes UAE Remark on Iraq

NC1710182195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1730 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the remark by United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan yesterday about the lifting of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people expresses a sincere and objective Arab desire that the Iraqi people will soon regain their main role in consolidating joint Arab action, which suffered a serious setback as a result of the Gulf crisis of 1990.

In a press statement today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab countries, including Kuwait, have often voiced their sympathy with the Iraqi people. They also expressed concern over the suffering being experienced by the 18 million Iraqis. He expressed the hope that Iraq will respond to a humanitarian request and end the suffering resulting from the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League is making strenuous efforts to end this suffering as a step toward creating the atmosphere required for Arab reconciliation.

Boycott Office Lacks Quorum, Postpones Meeting

MM1710131695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
16 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Boycott Office Postpones Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Informed sources in the office of Arab boycott of Israel in Damascus told AL-HAYAH that the meeting scheduled for the beginning of this month in the Syrian capital has been postponed again "because of failure to secure a quorum, namely the agreement of two-thirds of Arab states."

The sources stressed that the general commissioner's office, headed by Zuhayr 'Uqayl, has set April 1996 as the new date for the regional offices' meeting and informed them accordingly.

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The office had failed to obtain the agreement of two-thirds of Arab states since the meeting held in April 1993, bearing in mind that the boycott rule stipulates that two meetings be held annually to discuss the position of the companies "blacklisted" for dealing with Israel, to make amendments to the list of companies which have frozen their activities with the Hebrew state, and to ascertain how committed the Arab states are to the boycott rule.

The sources do not expect directors of the regional offices in Arab states to meet on the next date, because a quorum cannot be secured and because some states are refraining from attending the meetings now that they have lifted the indirect boycott of the Hebrew state. Multilateral meetings have been held to discuss "normalization between Israel and the Arab states, which contravenes the unified boycott rule issued at the end of 1952."

The sources stressed that the "future" of the boycott office was not discussed at the Arab League Council's recent meeting at foreign minister level, and that the attendees only listened to the "annual report prepared by the general commissioner's office on the status of blacklisted companies and steps undertaken by the Arab states which contravene the boycott rule." The sources explained that the issue had not been discussed thoroughly because of the presence of two views among Arab states, one in favor of dealing with the Hebrew state.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 10 Oct

NC1710113895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Arrest of New Muslim Brotherhood Cadres Assailed
2. Government Said Loser in Battle Against Brotherhood
3. Brotherhood's Mashhur on Crackdown, Election, Palestine
4. Military Trial of Brothers Rejected, Election Rigging Feared
5. Labor Party Leader Views Alliance With Muslim Brotherhood
6. Israel Assailed Over POW Affair, Press Freedom Urged
7. Columnist Criticizes Gulf States' Contacts With Israel
8. Columnist Blames Libya for Expelling Palestinians
9. Israeli Cultural Center Said Involved in Political Activity
10. Washington Said Seeking to Eliminate Islamists in Region

ARREST OF NEW MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CADRES ASSAILED

The newspaper highlights and slams the arrest of a new group of Muslim Brotherhood leaders on 9 October. Under the banner headlines "The Government of Despotism Continues to Arrest Candidates", and "14 Brotherhood Leaders Imprisoned in New Police Campaign", Qutb al-'Arabi and Mu'tazz al-Hadidi write on pages 1 and 8 an approximately 1,700-word report in which they cite a Muslim Brotherhood statement attacking the government for the arrests. The reporters say the government seeks to distance the Muslim Brotherhood from the upcoming parliamentary elections, and they suggest that "the country is now facing a situation unprecedented in its history".

—The newspaper publishes on page 1 a 120-word boxed statement by the Doctors Syndicate denouncing the arrest of some of its leading members and saying that the measure "creates a climate of instability and does not offer guarantees for fair elections as promised by the government." The syndicate appeals to the "political leadership" to intervene "to stop this continuing escalation and to call for national reconciliation that achieves security and stability for all citizens". It should be noted that many of the newly-arrested Muslim Brotherhood cadres are leading professional syndicates members.

—A similar 350-word boxed statement by the professional syndicates coordination committee appears next to the one above. It expresses "deep regret and denunciation" for the arrest of "a new group of the nation's symbols and unionist leaders". The statement says the arrests were designed to spoil and influence the upcoming elections, and it demands the speedy release of the detainees.

GOVERNMENT SAID LOSER IN BATTLE AGAINST BROTHERHOOD

An 800-word article by Mustafa 'Uthman on page 4 maintains that the government will be the loser in the fight against the Muslim Brotherhood. 'Uthman gives the following reasons for his argument: First, the arrest and torture of "moderate" Islamists and their referral to military courts will increase popular sympathy and support for them, especially the people who will not believe government claims that these well-known moderate figures are involved in terrorism. Second, using the same heavy stick against both the extremists and the moderates "will turn a sector of the Islamists into extremists

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and enemies of the oppressive government." Third, the extremists will become even more convinced that their violence is justified because they will argue that moderation failed to achieve anything. Fourth, it will become difficult for the moderates to rectify and soften extremist thought and hardline opinions. Fifth, popular indignation against the government will increase because the ordinary man, who may justify government war against extremists, will not find an excuse for the government's similar war against moderates, "especially since the Brothers have entered every house and mixed with all classes."

BROTHERHOOD'S MASHHUR ON CRACKDOWN, ELECTION, PALESTINE

In a 1,500-word column on page 5, Mustafa Mashhur, deputy Muslim Brotherhood general guide, repeats cliches about the group's moderate line and peaceful preaching of Islam. He notes "unjust" campaigns of arrests and torture of Muslim Brotherhood members and finds no justification for referring a group of them to a military court. He expresses pride in the Armed Forces and hopes they will not be pushed into political controversy and election rivalry.

Mashhur maintains that the government "is alarmed that the Egyptian public is leaning toward the ideas of the Brotherhood." The government fears that this will be reflected in the upcoming elections, and this explains its crackdown on the group, he says. Mashhur asks: "If the National Democratic Party really believes that it represents the majority, why should it fear the results of the elections? Why this arsenal of freedom-restricting laws? Why should election marches be banned? And for what purpose are these emergency and other freedom-restricting laws?" He adds: "Many official statements these days say that there was no interference in past elections and that there will be no interference in the upcoming elections. These statements themselves give cause for worry because in the past elections, interference was clear and rigging was flagrant."

Mashhur maintains that the Muslim Brothers are not seeking power for their personal interests. All that they want, he says, is that the Islamic shari'ah be applied, no matter who is the ruler. He says the Brothers believe that the implementation of shari'ah "is the only way to save the people from all their trouble."

Mashhur says the government, instead of engaging in security campaigns against opposition at home, should have expressed deeper anger against Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's and turned more attention to the Egyptians "who are being expelled and beaten up in Libya." He adds: "It is inconceivable that we warmly welcome the Zionist aggressors when we throw the homeland's elite into prisons and bring them to military courts without any guilt or crime."

Finally, Mashhur says that despite all this injustice, the Muslim Brothers will continue to work with moderation for the sake of their country and the Islamic nation. They will remain patient, confident of God's help and support, he says. Noting that foreign media are now giving much publicity to the Muslim Brotherhood and that foreign lawyers are defending its members in the military court, Mashhur concludes by saying that the campaign against his group might be "a blessing in disguise."

—In a 120-word boxed article within the body of the article above, Mashhur laments the situation of the Palestine question and beseeches God to help the Palestinian people. He notes Palestine's "deep and serious wounds," which he says began with the occupation of its lands and continued with the signing of the Camp David agreements, the Oslo 1 accord, and the Oslo 2 accord, "which is worse than the first." He says al-Qadhdhafi added insult to injury when he expelled the Palestinians from Libya.

MILITARY TRIAL OF BROTHERS REJECTED, ELECTION RIGGING FEARED

In a 2,000-word report on page 3, Dawud Hasan gives an account of a conference organized by the Lawyers Syndicate on 5 October to discuss referral of civilians to military courts. Several lawyers, human right activists, and opposition parties' representatives are cited as sharply criticizing the government and rejecting the military trials as unconstitutional. The reporter says the conference called on international human rights organizations to express solidarity with the Egyptian political forces as they call for releasing all detainees standing before military and extraordinary courts. It appealed to President Mubarak to revoke the courtmartialing of Muslim Brotherhood leaders, and it called on all professional association members to stage a day of strike in protest of the military trials. The conference also formed a committee drawn from leading lawyers and representatives of nationalist forces to meet the justice minister and the head of the Higher Judiciary Council to curb referrals of civilians to military courts.

—A 2,000-word article by Muhammad Hilmi Murad, deputy Labor Party leader, on page 5, contests the constitutionality of referring civilians to military courts. He explains that the martial law of 1966, on which President Mubarak's decision to refer the Muslim Brotherhood leaders to a military court was based, was annulled with the issuance of the Egyptian Constitution in 1971, which states that civilians must be tried by civilian judges. Murad also maintains that the trial of civilians

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by military courts conflicts with the international agreement on civil and political rights, to which Egypt is a member. Murad expresses appreciation for the Armed Forces and says they must not be pushed into holding political trials for civilians.

—In his 600-word column on page 12, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus expresses fear that the government will rig the upcoming parliamentary elections. His fear, he says, stems from the fact that there is no full judiciary supervision of the polls, that the Interior Ministry will announce the results, and that the opposition parties are not involved in the supervision. The writer also wonders how the election can be free under the emergency law, when human rights are not respected, when prisoners are tortured, when newspaper editors are appointed by the government, and when the government refers civilians to military courts. He argues that "the Muslim Brothers, whose military trial has already started, were not found in possession of any weapons at all. They are far removed from terrorism or bloodshed."

LABOR PARTY LEADER VIEWS ALLIANCE WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

In a 1,500-word article on pages 1 and 8, Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri discusses the upcoming People's Assembly elections and the need for the opposition to contest them and play an active role despite "the absence of any guarantees for fairness." Shukri believes that the "strong attack against the Islamic alliance," which includes the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, "and ongoing attempts to create media furor about occasional minor differences, "indicate that this alliance is strong and healthy. He explains that the Islamic alliance "is not an election alliance that appears during the elections and disappears afterward, but a political vision of what is common between its members. It is an alliance on political slogans, foremost of which is the 'Islam Is the Solution' slogan." He says members of the alliance are organizationally independent and their political differences are "less important" than the points of agreement. He says the alliance, which made its first major steps in the 1987 elections, was originally meant to be an umbrella for all opposition parties, so that they may stand united and strong against the government and its huge capabilities.

ISRAEL ASSAILED OVER POW AFFAIR, PRESS FREEDOM URGED

In a 1,000-word report on page 3, Muhammad Hilal cites three military commanders recollecting the October war and how the Egyptian Army treated Israeli POW's well and buried dead Israeli soldiers in a dignified way. They say the Israelis, on the other hand, violated international laws and killed Egyptian prisoners.

—In a 1,200-word article on page 9, Dr. Sulayman Salih uses the POW issue to criticize Egyptian press and government control of it. Noting that it was the Israeli press that made the revelations about the killing of Egyptian POW's, he blames Egyptian media for inadequacy. But he deems this to be a natural result of government control of the press, a control that has "crippled journalists' ability to serve people's right to know the facts and prevented them from developing their professional skills." The writer also notes that Israel wanted the Egyptian Government to apologize for what the opposition papers write about the killing of POW's. He says Israel wants the government to impose controls on all Egyptian media, including the press, for its own interests. He says the only answer to this is to unleash press freedom. He also urges all Egyptian journalists to reject all forms of normalization with Israel and to explain to the public that Israel "will remain the number-one enemy of the Arab nation as long as it continues to usurp the land of Palestine."

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES GULF STATES' CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL

In a 600-word article on page 9, columnist Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah notes contacts between Israel and the Gulf states and the Arab states' rush to normalize relations with Israel "without a comprehensible reason or direct interests." He explains Israel's interests in the Gulf region, notably reaching Arab oil and gaining direct contact with Iran, "its next enemy after Iraq." He says the Israelis are now thinking of attacking Iran's nuclear projects "to prevent any Arab or Islamic development and to ensure that the Zionist plan will prevail." The writer wonders whether the Gulf rulers, in their contacts with Israel, are really reflecting the will of their peoples.

COLUMNIST BLAMES LIBYA FOR EXPELLING PALESTINIANS

In part of his 2,500-word article on page 12, columnist Dr. Mahjub 'Umar discusses the tragedies of the Palestinian diaspora, mildly criticizing Libya for expelling Palestinians to the border with Egypt. "What does the Libyan leadership want from the expulsion of these people, who have no ruler, leader, or negotiator among them, and who only want to live, earn their bread, and dream of the homeland?" Leaving these people on the border, the writer says, may embarrass Egypt and the world, "but it will certainly strengthen the feelings of bitterness among many Palestinians, who will not differ-

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entiate between the Libyan Arab Government and any other Arab country."

ISRAELI CULTURAL CENTER SAID INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

In a 2,000-word report on page 3, Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad summarizes some "new documents" available to him proving that the Israeli cultural center in Cairo, in violation of the protocol of its establishment in 1982, is involved in political activity. The documents reportedly reveal that the center is involved, among other things, in research on the ownership of Jewish cemeteries in Egypt and on Islamic groups in the country. The writer urges efforts to stop the center's political activity or to close it altogether. He warns the Arabs that these academic Israeli centers "conceal destructive political objectives."

WASHINGTON SAID SEEKING TO ELIMINATE ISLAMISTS IN REGION

A 275-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 cites a U.S. State Department document on U.S. efforts to redraw the Middle East map and eliminate Islamic fundamentalists.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs Cabinet Session After Malta Trip

JN1410202195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority Cabinet is currently holding its weekly session at the Presidency in Gaza under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting began after the president's return to the homeland from Malta this evening. The cabinet is expected to discuss the latest political developments in light of the Israeli obstacles that are preventing the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

The cabinet will also discuss issues President 'Arafat is expected to raise during his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow, Sunday. In addition, the cabinet will discuss developments in the position of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and ways to achieve the higher national interests, besides some administrative and security issues.

President 'Arafat stressed the need to implement the agreement that was signed. Upon his arrival at the Presidency in Gaza, he said that in his meeting tomorrow at the Erez checkpoint he will discuss with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres how to implement what was signed accurately, honestly, and quickly.

President 'Arafat said the release of prisoners, especially females, and rapid redeployment are still two obstacles to the implementation of the agreement. The president said he hopes that an agreement will be reached with the Hamas movement. He added that the meeting between a Hamas mediation team and the movement's leadership in Khartoum was successful. President 'Arafat said his visit to Malta and talks with its president and prime minister were successful and constructive. The president took part in an economic conference there, and received an international award for his efforts to achieve peace in the region.

The president said the peace award he received is being presented to the Palestinian people and to the male and female prisoners in Israeli jails and the families of martyrs.

'Arafat-Brotherhood Talks in Malta Detailed

TA1710111095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Pinhas Inbari and News Agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a secret meeting in Malta on Saturday [14 October] with senior Moslem Brotherhood representatives from Sudan and offered them a deal to halt attacks on Israel, sources in Gaza said.

'Arafat asked the Brotherhood to order Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to halt attacks from autonomous areas for nine months, so as not to disrupt the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in West Bank, the sources said.

In exchange, 'Arafat promised to release all Hamas prisoners.

There was no information on the outcome of 'Arafat's offer. According to the sources, Hamas representatives from Jordan who were invited to the meeting did not show up for the meeting.

'Arafat yesterday released a senior Hamas leader, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, as part of intensifying cease-fire negotiations with his political rivals.

Bahr had been arrested in June, along with other senior Hamas officials, after a series of suicide bombings by the group in Israel.

Bahr's release came after 'Arafat met with Shaykh 'Abdallah Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, who has served as mediator between the two sides.

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"Now Hamas and the [Palestinian] National Authority are in agreement on the ground. The agreement on the ground is ready and only the signing on paper remains," Darwish told reporters while Bahr nodded in approval.

'Arafat adviser Ahmad al-Tibi said there was progress in the negotiations between officials from 'Arafat's government and Hamas on the terms of the group's political participation.

"The discussion today has brought positive and tangible results," al-Tibi said. "There is still some work to be done."

Darwish said that Arafat has promised to release additional Hamas activists in the future.

A PLO official said an understanding has already been reached and he expects a deal to be signed within two to three weeks.

Bahr said the signing of an agreement could come even before Israel begins a troop redeployment from West Bank towns due to start on October 22.

"This [agreement] is not related to the redeployment but it will happen, God willing, and I hope it will be before the redeployment," Bahr said. [passage omitted]

Darwish and al-Tibi called on Israel to help Palestinian reconciliation succeed by freeing Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, jailed in 1989 for life for ordering the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers in 1988.

"The Israeli government is required to contribute to the stability in the area.

"And stability will not become complete so long as this holy struggling shaykh remains in Israeli jails," al-Tibi said.

Jibril Congratulates Hizballah on Lebanon Attack

JN1710190095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, has sent a cable of congratulations to His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah, on the heroic operation which was carried out by Hizballah heroes in southern Lebanon. The following is the text of the cable:

Your Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah. God's peace and blessings be upon you: The qualitative operations that have been carried out by the brother mujahidin in the national and Islamic resistance against the Zionist occupation troops in southern Lebanon, coupled with the continued blessed uprising in Palestine, are the real expression of the popular position which rejects all forms of recognition and surrender. They also reflect a commitment to resistance and jihad to liberate the land away from the deals of humiliation and treason that Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn signed with the Zionists.

Ahmad Jibril went on to say: We congratulate you on the success of your heroic mujahidin in breaking through the enemies' fortifications and inflicting heavy human and material losses on the enemy. We reassure you that we will continue to support you and that we are always prepared to respond to the call of duty in facing the occupation troops and responding to their daily acts of aggression and racist practices against our secure people in steadfast southern Lebanon and in our rebellious Palestinian areas.

Your recent jihad operations have revealed the extent of 'Arafat's submissivness to the Zionist enemy's will and shed light on the services he extends to this enemy. He has ignored the continuation of occupation of dear parts of southern Lebanon, al- Biqa', and of more than 90 percent of the holy land of Palestine. He impudently offered his condolences to the families of the Zionist soldiers who were killed [in the operation]. This confirms the proverb: If you have no shame, then do whatever you wish.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

This is a revolution until the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] Your brother, Ahmad Jibril

Opposition Sees Loss of Support After Agreements

TA1810053895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian organizations in the territories that oppose the Oslo accords say that the signing of the interim agreement and the expansion of Palestinian autonomy in Judaea and Samaria have caused a crisis among Palestinian opposition groups.

Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, one of the leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the territories, told our correspondent that all factions of the Palestinian opposition had lost thousands of supporters. The DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine fear that a reconciliation between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Authority will further weaken the opposition.

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Contacts are currently under way for the establishment of a new, secular Palestinian opposition without the participation of the Islamic factions.

'Hamas Leader' Says Attacks on Israel 'May' End

NC1710175695 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 17 (AFP) — A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Front] leader said Tuesday [17 October] for the first time that the hardline group could end its attacks on Israelis to reach a reconciliation deal with the Palestinian Authority.

"Hamas may stop its attacks on Israel if that is in the interests of the Palestinian people," Shaykh Ahmad Bahar told AFP.

On Monday he was released from a Palestinian jail in Gaza on the orders of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat after serving nearly four months.

It was the first time that a leading Hamas member evoked a possible end to the attacks, a key condition set by 'Arafat for any reconciliation.

"Any accord with Hamas which does not set out an end to the attacks on Israel would be nonsense. Without this clause no accord can be valid," the head of the Palestinian security services Nasr Yusuf said.

"My release is a very important gesture for the unity of the Palestinian people," Bahar told journalists on Monday.

"The chances of reaching an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority are greater than ever and I hope this agreement will be reached soon...before the redeployment of the Israeli army in the West Bank."

But 'Imad al-Faluji, the director of the Hamas mouthpiece AL- WATAN, was more cautious saying negotiations were still going on between the two sides.

"It is a very complicated matter because there are the attacks in Israel, those conducted in the Palestinian territories or from the territories, without forgetting those carried out abroad.

"These different points must be considered."

But he agreed that 'Arafat's self-rule authority had shown "good faith and Hamas has softened its tone towards the PLO. The current climate could augur well for an accord between the two sides."

Hamas, which is opposed to the autonomy accords signed with Israel and has killed dozens of Israelis in bombings over the last two years, has so far refused to lift its threat of further attacks.

But amid growing signs of a rapprochement, 'Arafat on Friday met 12 Hamas leaders in the West Bank for the first time. He has freed two Hamas leaders so far this month and lifted a ban on AL-WATAN.

The PLO leader also won permission from Israel for four Hamas members to travel to Sudan to sound out the group's leadership in exile about an eventual reconciliation.

Hamas Representative on Dialogue With PA

JN1810101195 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 17-23 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by correspondent 'Atif al-Julani; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Julani] There were conflicting reports about the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement's delegation which came to Khartoum from the Gaza Strip. Some said it represented the Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip and the purpose of the visit was to meet with the Hamas leaders who are abroad. Others said the delegation represented an opposition trend within Hamas and is supported by the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Can you shed more light on this?

[Nazzal] The delegation which visited Khartoum comprised four known figures in Gaza. It is a mediation delegation that neither represents Hamas nor the PA. Following their return to Gaza, the members of the delegation issued a statement under the name of the national reconciliation committee to indicate the nature of their mission. In any case, we value the delegation's good offices and we view the reconciliation mission it carries out as a noble one which deserves appreciation and thanks.

[Al-Julani] But PA sources said the opposite and claimed the delegation represented the Hamas leadership in the territories.

[Nazzal] The delegation has been mediating between the PA and Hamas for more than five months now. It has not started now. The two sides accepted the delegation as an unbiased mediator to settle the differences and disputes between Hamas and the PA. The PA head and members have been treating the delegation as a mediator and not as a delegation from Hamas. From this premise, what the PA and its sources claim is baseless.

[Al-Julani] If this is the case, then why does the PA fabricate all these claims?

[Nazzal] Some within the PA want to mess up the delegation's mission and to maintain the confusion that

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prevails in the arena. That's why they disseminate false reports.

[Al-Julani] Let us go back to the Khartoum meeting. What important items were discussed during your meeting with the mediation delegation and what are the most important results attained?

[Nazzal] The discussion with the delegation which came from Gaza dealt with the basic issue of the dialogue between the PA and Hamas. We told the delegation that Hamas is eager to resort to dialogue in dealing with the PA. We also emphasized what we previously had accepted; the invitation Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi addressed to both sides.

[Al-Julani] Was it necessary for the delegation to come from Gaza so that you would announce such a stand?

[Nazzal] The agreement to meet with the PA preceded the departure of the delegation from Gaza. The approval was given three months ago when we received Dr. al-Turabi's invitation to hold a dialogue in Khartoum under his auspices. However, the dialogue stumbled when the PA arrested Hamas leaders Mahmud al-Zahhar, Ahmad Bahr, and al- Safadi. This made the mediation committee once again contact the two sides to end the bad feelings and arrange for a meeting between the two sides.

[Al-Julani] Can we consider Dr. al-Zahhar's release as coming in response to your request that the PA should demonstrate good intentions before any dialogue can be resumed, and do you view this gesture as sufficient for resuming dialogue?

[Nazzal] Dr. al-Zahhar's release is not a favor the PA has granted us. Freedom is the natural right of any individual. No one has the right to confiscate it on the basis of a difference of opinion or a certain political stand. There is no doubt that Dr. al-Zahhar's release is a step in the right direction. But, it is not enough. Other leaders like Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, Salamah al-Safadi, and Ayman Abu-Taha are still in the PA prisons. They should all be released as good intentions cannot be parcelled and do not come in installments.

[Al-Julani] Does this mean you will wait for the others to be released before resuming the dialogue?

[Nazzal] The mediation delegation told us that the PA has promised to release the other detainees. We did not set as condition that promises should be fulfilled first. This is to show our good intentions with respect to holding a dialogue and to forestall any of the excuses the PA used to raise in the past.

[Al-Julani] Press reports mentioned that during your meeting with the mediation delegation in Khartoum, you agreed to suspend military activities, participate in the elections to the self-rule council, and to establish a political party. How true is this?

[Nazzal] We did not discuss with the mediation delegation the question of suspending military operations or any of the issues you mentioned. The delegation came to arrange a meeting between the PA and Hamas, and the topics you have mentioned were not on the meeting's agenda.

[Al-Julani] What about your stand on the formation of a political party. Are there new developments on this issue?

[Nazzal] The formation of a political party has nothing to do with the dialogue with the PA. It is a different issue.

[Al-Julani] But there has been much clamor on the issue of forming a political party. While it was said that Hamas agreed to turn itself into a political party or that it would form a political party, no measures or practical steps have been adopted in that direction. Why is this?

[Nazzal] There is something on which there is agreement within the movement's establishments; namely, that Hamas is a movement to resist occupation. Since the occupation continues to exist, Hamas will continue its basic task, which is to resist the occupation. It is unlikely, therefore, that Hamas will change to a political party as long as the occupation continues. As for the delay in announcing the formation of a political party, this is because forming this party does not depend only on Hamas. This party, if it is formed, will include independent Islamic personalities in addition to Hamas personalities. Forming a broad party that includes a mixture of personalities needs much time for consultation and dialogue. On our side, we in Hamas decided to approve the joining of any Hamas member in this party when its is formed on the basis of free will.

[Al-Julani] Do you not fear that many of your elements will join the political party if you leave the door open without restrictions?

[Nazzal] The Hamas Movement is no longer a narrow organization. It is a popular movement that includes a huge number of members. Therefore, it does not fear extinction. The noble and holy objective for which we work will always draw the youth and honest people to Hamas. By leaving the door open to our elements and cadres to join the party, we show that we do not want to monopolize the efforts in service of the Palestine question within our movement. Some people believe that the developments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank

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call for new methods and measures, including a political party. Therefore, we will not oppose them as long as they continue to resist the occupation, but in a way that is different from than the armed struggle which Hamas follows as a policy. This they will do in the form of a political opposition. This does not harm us or our cause.

[Al-Julani] Is the declaration on the formation of the party linked to your participation in the expected elections?

[Nazzal] The declaration on the formation of the party is not linked to the dialogue with the Authority or the participation in the elections or anything else. The political party will not be formed to participate in the elections. Its role and task are much larger than this.

[Al-Julani] Does this mean that the party — in case it is formed — will not participate in the expected elections?

[Nazzal] The political party's participation in the elections is something to be decided by the party itself. Is it logical for us to decide for the party whether to participate in the elections or not before the party is formed? I emphasize that the party will draw up its policy and adopt its decisions through its establishments which are supposed to be built in an organizational and sound manner.

[Al-Julani] Some people fear that the formation of a political party will negatively influence the resistance policy of Hamas.

[Nazzal] We assure our brothers and friends who have such fears that resistance is a strategic policy of the Hamas Movement that will not be influenced by the formation of a political party or anything else. Resistance has become a policy that may increase or decrease according to the circumstances or storms that we face. However, it will remain a firm strategy until the occupation is driven out.

[Al-Julani] Let us speak about the dialogue. Do you expect a dialogue between you and the Authority in Khartoum soon?

[Nazzal] We are prepared for dialogue, and the ball is in the Authority's court now..

[Al-Julani] What will happen if the Authority rejects or procrastinates?

[Nazzal] Hamas has its program that it follows, and will go ahead whether the dialogue takes place or not. Our readiness to hold a dialogue does not mean that we stop implementing our program. For us, dialogue is a means we employ with the sons of our people regardless of the political conflicts between us and them in order to avoid infighting.

[Al-Julani] There is talk which has been going on for months about cracks and divisions in Hamas. How true is this?

[Nazzal] Cracks and divisions mean that groups of people belonging to the movement break away from the organization. This has not taken place. If the names of those who have broken away are available, please provide us with these names. We do not want to argue, but we present facts because it is impossible for a movement with a huge number of members such as Hamas to include only one opinion. The diversity of opinions is a normal phenomenon that enriches the movement and guides its march. I emphasize that the movement's organizational structure is strong and the problems it faces will further strengthen it, contrary to what some people expect.

Hamas Leader Bahr Released From Gaza Jail

TA1610192895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Another Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, was released from detention in Gaza today. The release was made possible thanks to the continued mediation efforts by two Israeli Arab figures, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. On the agenda, among other things, is an agreement for the release of all Hamas detainees, including those already tried in the Palestinian Authority's courts.

Hamas Holds U.S. Responsible for Abu-Marzuq

JN1710124995 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 17-23 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Ruba al-Farkh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A U.S. court in the District of Colombia in New York [as published] set 24 October to begin the trial of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The arrest of Dr. Abu-Marzuq was extended for 60 days. The enemy government [the Israeli Government] officially asked the United States to extradite Dr. Abu-Marzuq in line with a treaty signed between the two countries in this regard. As the date of the trial approaches, certain developments took place over the past few days, which could greatly affect the turn of events.

Dr. Abu-Marzuq has been in solitary confinement for 75 days. He is locked up in a cell numbered 95 in a New York prison. Apparently, the prison authorities

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have been mistreating Dr. Abu-Marzuq. This administration is procrastinating over the provision of medications and special meals for Dr. Abu-Marzuq, who has diabetes. This has greatly affected Abu-Marzuq's health condition. He has lost 15 kg, which prompted his lawyer Stanley Cohen to ask the court to form a medical team to examine his client. In a telephone contact initiated by AL-SABIL, Cohen said Abu-Marzuq's health has deteriorated because his level of sugar has increased lately. This is because the prison administration is not taking into consideration the fact that he has diabetes when it gives him food. Stanley Cohen said that a session is scheduled this week to listen to the opinion of the medical committee. According to sources close to Dr. Abu-Marzuq, he looked thin and pale last Wednesday compared with the first time he appeared before the U.S. court on 8 August.

Abu-Marzuq's lawyer and wife raised such issues over the past few weeks, including allowing him to keep a copy of the Holy Koran during his recess. The prison administration denied him this request. This is in addition to the delay in providing special meals for diabetes patients.

Last week, Hamas issued a statement in which it says: "Hamas has been observing Abu-Marzuq's condition with extreme concern. Abu- Marzuq is suffering from very bad health conditions in view of the lack of appropriate medical treatment and medications. This caused him to lose weight significantly."

The Hamas statement held the U.S. Administration responsible for the life of Abu-Marzuq. The statement adds: "Hamas expresses its extreme dismay because the prison administration is deliberately delaying the necessary medications and examinations and meals that are taken by diabetes patients." [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Israeli extradition memorandum, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman, told AL-SABIL: It is a cumulative formula through which the Rabin government is trying to hold Dr. Abu-Marzuq responsible for all the operations that were carried out against the occupation in the name of Hamas or the al-Qassam Battalions. The memorandum includes some statements in which Abu-Marzuq's name was mentioned. These statements were extracted under torture and coercion by using all internationally prohibited methods. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Steering Committee Discusses Taba Implementation

JN1710175395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Steering and Monitoring Committee is currently being held at the Local Government Ministry to discuss the practical implementation of the Taba agreement, especially the release of all female prisoners and detainees, the Palestinian legislative elections, and preparations for the deployment of the Palestinian forces in cities and villages from which the occupation army will withdraw.

The Palestinian side to the meetings is headed by Ahmad Quray', finance and trade minister, while the Israeli side is led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the Palestinian file is moving from the Israeli Defense Ministry to the Foreign Ministry for the first time since 1967.

Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs; Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya; the official in charge of the Liaison Committee, Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the National Security Forces in the West Bank; and Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation are participating in the meeting. On the Israeli side, the meeting is attended by 'Uzi Dayan, deputy foreign minister; Oren Shahor, coordinator of the occupation authorities in the West Bank; and Yo'el Singer, legal adviser of the Israeli Government.

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Algeria

Security Forces Eliminate 9 'Terrorists'

LD1710151695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that nine terrorists were eliminated in different operations carried out by the security forces during recent days in the capital Algiers, Laghouat, and Blida. During these operations, the security forces succeeded in recovering a quantity of weapons.

Security Forces Destroy 2 Bomb 'Workshops'

LD1710175195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued by the security services today said that security forces had found and destroyed two bomb-manufacturing workshops in Algiers and Blida on 15 October. [passage omitted]

FLN's Mehri: Crisis Set To Continue

MM1710135495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri by Salah Jamil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jamil] What is your assessment of the situation in Algeria?

[Mehri] The Algerian crisis is now more complex and, unfortunately, likely to continue. There are numerous signs that the current regime is not prepared to change its policy, because it believes that if this policy is not succeeding now, it is because it needs time and not because it is not good or timely. Regrettably, the lack of prospects of a political solution leaves no room for any hope of an imminent solution.

[Jamil] What is your response to the view that the current situation is the legacy of FLN [National Liberation Front] rule in the past?

[Mehri] The FLN was part of the regime but not all of it. The proof of that is that the regime has continued in a more negative way since the FLN left the regime in compliance with the 1989 Constitution. The previous constitution, that of 1976, gave the FLN political functions in the state, so that it was always the front for the regime as a whole. The front is what the people see, and this is why people credit it with more responsibility than was really the case. After the 1989 Constitution was declared, the FLN became just like any other party, and the regime has continued to reveal its negative aspects to this day. This means that the FLN is not entirely responsible for what happened in the past and the past is not entirely negative. There were many positive essential elements in the past which citizens started to appreciate after losing them.

[Jamil] The presidential elections are undoubtedly the major event in the Algerian arena. Is the FLN still firm in its rejection of the elections?

[Mehri] When we say elections we mean choice, that is free choice, for the citizen. Our firm belief is that there is no free choice. Elections cannot be organized in the atmosphere of confrontation that pervades the whole country and claims scores of victims each day and sometimes hundreds each week, in addition to conditions caused by a state of war, including emergency measures, absence of freedoms, the terror felt by all citizens, and the fear to exercise their rights in the way they want. Therefore we oppose these elections because they are not genuine elections.

[Jamil] Is this refusal a call to FLN supporters and the people in general to boycott the elections?

[Mehri] We are calling for a rejection of the elections by all available means, in the light of terrorism in the wider sense of the term and the citizens' feeling of insecurity. We ask every citizen — if he can — to call for the boycott of the elections. If he can refrain from voting, so be it, and if he cannot boycott the elections, let him hand in a blank ballot paper. It is important that the government realize that there is a rejection of the current policy and the demand that this policy be changed.

[Jamil] There is therefore no clear call for a boycott?

[Mehri] Yes, there is a call for a boycott and if that is not possible, abstain from voting or vote with a blank ballot paper.

[Jamil] How will you deal with the next president, and does this call to boycott the elections mean that you will boycott the elected president too?

[Mehri] We cooperate with the government in place today and in the future. As far as we are concerned, the elections do not change anything if the policy is not changed. If the government's policy changes for the better, we will take that into consideration, and if the same policy continues, we will continue opposing this policy and demanding that it be changed.

[Jamil] Some figures affiliated to the FLN have responded to the president's invitation for a dialogue over the crisis or the elections. Are we to understand that there are conflicting views within the FLN with regard to the crisis in general and the elections in particular?

[Mehri] All the figures who are still FLN members because of the responsibilities they assumed in the past

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have accepted contacts with the presidency but at the same time have stressed the same positions that the party advocates. Hence, there is no contradiction in the positions of all leading FLN members.

[Jamil] Why did you then refuse to meet with President Zeroual?

[Mehri] The party adopted a principled position, namely that if there is no clarity in the dialogue, or if the dialogue is only limited to the presidential elections, then the party does not participate in this dialogue so as not to give the people false hopes. These figures, however, have had responsibilities in the past, and yet went to say the same thing.

[Jamil] Was there any coordination among you?

[Mehri] Yes, there has been coordination before (the dialogue) and after it.

[Jamil] Most observers agree that the presidential elections are a step in the right direction. What is your response to them?

[Mehri] We say that if the elections are genuine, then they are a step in the right direction, but if they are sham elections, they are a step in the opposite direction. We believe that at a time when the people aspire to a genuine alternative to violence, it is a mistake to offer a fake alternative. If the future of Algeria is to be built on a fallacy, then all alternatives will disappear from the horizon for those demanding that the regime be changed through violence. This is why we believe instead that the crisis has worsened because of the elections, which have given rise to controversy and whose validity is in doubt. To organize elections which are controversial and whose credibility is questioned cannot be the solution.

[Jamil] Some people will perhaps consider Reda Malek's exit from the presidential race because of his failure to secure the required number of signatures an indication that the elections are fair. What is your response?

[Mehri] His exit is an indication that the elections are controlled by the administration even before they are held. There is a plan with regard to the number of candidates, and the administration has participated in the collecting of signatures, giving them to whom they choose and refusing them to whom they choose. Theoretically the elections should be between a number of candidates, but the winner is known from the beginning, and this is what happened.

[Jamil] Then Reda Malek's exit was planned?

[Mehri] I believe that if they had wanted Reda Malek to participate, it would have been possible for him to participate like the rest.

[Jamil] Some of those who met with President Liamine Zeroual have said that he is honest in his attempts to solve the crisis peacefully but that he has no choice. Do you support this view?

[Mehri] Without going into well-known details about the person, he cannot be the basis on which to build a policy. We build the party's policy according to the policy that is implemented. The policy prevailing in Liamine Zeroual's era does not differ from the policy predating his arrival, and we fear that it will not be different after the elections. This is why we must put aside what we know about the person, and we may share certain views concerning the person and his personal views, but what interests us is the policy implemented in practice, and it is on this that we base our positions.

[Jamil] Do you not believe that President Zeroual will use the popular mandate that he gains from these elections, however limited, to strengthen his position against the so-called fundamentalist trend and consequently to pursue his plan to resolve the crisis politically?

[Mehri] Theoretically, President Zeroual could open the way for a genuine dialogue. This is up to him now. If he were to take this path he would enjoy greater popular support than he would gain from the elections, if he felt that he needed the elections. We are waiting, and we believe that if there is a political will to look for a genuine solution through dialogue, this is possible today and tomorrow and the day after. The official who will launch this initiative will receive widespread and strong popular support, regardless of his status and whether he is elected or not.

[Jamil] Despite your rejection of the elections as a concept and as a plan, is there a candidate among the four whom you would not wish to win?

[Mehri] If we had a say in the matter and a choice between the individuals, we would have participated in the elections, and perhaps would have preferred some of those who did not put themselves forward. However, we reject the elections, not as a concept but in the way presented by the government, because we know that the elections are set up so that only one person could win and there is no other theoretical possibility, and this person is President Zeroual.

[Jamil] How are relations now between the parties of the National Covenant?

[Mehri] Relations are excellent and characterized by harmony and the adherence of all sides to the proposed basis for the National Covenant.

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[Jamil] Have you recovered from the "shock" caused by the revelations of failed contacts between the government and the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Mehri] There was no shock or surprise. All sides believe that, if the government can reach a solution to stop the bloodshed, it would be welcomed by all sides, bearing in mind that the FIS is ready for such a dialogue but sees that the remaining political issues must be addressed by all. This is, as far as I know, the position sanctioned by all parties to the National Covenant.

[Jamil] An FIS official said that the FIS will insist in future on the participation of the other parties to the National Covenant in any dialogue between it and the government. Is there a firm agreement among the National Covenant parties in this regard?

[Mehri] Perhaps the FIS' insistence that the National Covenant parties take part in future dialogues indicates that it has learned from the bilateral meetings, which showed that what the government intended by the bilateral meetings was to gain time and try to fragment the National Covenant group. If this was the proposal made by an FIS leader, it means that they have learned from the series of failed bilateral meetings.

[Jamil] Do FIS representatives take part in the meetings held by the National Covenant group?

[Mehri] The FIS did participate. Since the signing of the National Covenant platform, meetings have been held on a weekly basis and coordinated with all sides attending. However, after the Justice Ministry — obviously illegally — prevented the FIS representatives from attending these meetings, the meetings are now held without the FIS representatives, but we have other ways of coordinating with the FIS.

[Jamil] There are reports that the government has recently renewed contact with the jailed FIS shaykhs. Have you and the other National Covenant parties any knowledge of these contacts?

[Mehri] I have no information to confirm these reports. I have read some of the newspapers which published these reports, but I have no confirmation from any other source. The authorities can visit prisoners in jail but I do not believe that this will lead to real political contacts that would resolve the crisis.

[Jamil] It has also been reported that President Zeroual has drafted a proposal to put to the FIS leadership if he is elected, whereby he would leave the running of civilian society to the FIS, which, in turn, would leave the remaining aspects to the central government. What would be your position with regard to such a development?

[Mehri] This is a very remote possibility. To solve the crisis along the lines of the Sudanese solution, so that power would be shared between the FIS and the Army, is not possible in view of the nature of both sides, and also because of the difficulty or impossibility of sharing power in this way in view of what is known of the nature of both sides. Unless the nature of one of the sides changed, this would be unlikely.

[Mehri] Why did you criticize French President Jacques Chirac's decision to meet with his Algerian counterpart in New York?

[Jamil] We see France's position with regard to the crisis as totally unclear. The meeting between Chirac and Zeroual would have been normal if the two officials represented two countries in similar circumstances and with good relations between them. The mere fact that this meeting raises problems and gives rise to protests in France and elsewhere shows that the Algerian crisis is worsening and has major effects on Algerian-French relations. However, we do not entertain any hopes from this meeting and we ask nothing of France. France is incapable, in our view, of crystallizing a future policy toward Algeria, at least at the present moment.

[Jamil] Where did France go wrong in its dealings on the Algerian issue?

[Mehri] France has adopted toward the Algerian crisis the attitude of a spectator or a supporter of the policy of confrontation. This is what we blame France for. There is encouragement for the policy of confrontation and an inclination toward sanctioning a flawed democracy in Algeria. France's position toward the presidential elections is unclear. France always sanctions this type of fake democracy, and this is interference in internal affairs.

[Jamil] So you do not feel that there is a difference between the current French administration's style and its predecessors with regard to the Algerian question?

[Mehri] There is continuity in the proposals and there are no clear differences. This is why we are not interested in the meeting per se, but the fact of blessing the presidential elections and considering them a positive step whereas everybody else knows that they are fake elections and not genuine.

[Jamil] What is your assessment of the U.S. position on the crisis compared with the French position?

[Mehri] Up to now, the differences between France and the United States have not been in their analysis, but

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in implementation, and I believe that because France is geographically close [to Algeria] and has enormous interests, this gives it wider scope to move toward Algeria than would be the case for the United States.

[Jamil] What do you want from France?

[Mehri] We ask nothing of France. France knows Algeria's situation and the importance of Franco-Algerian relations and must act according to its genuine interests only. We are in no position to demand that France does anything, because the crisis, in our opinion, concerns the Algerians and its solution can only come from Algerians.

[Jamil] What about the sides that call on France to cut aid to Algeria?

[Mehri] We have our own view on aid. We do not believe that France gives aid to Algeria, but instead, it gives assistance to French foreign trade. The trade balance between France and Algeria is in favor of France and the volume of exchange has increased by more than 10 percent. The trade deficit is clearly in France's favor. We believe that France has every right to defend its interests and run its policies according to its own interests. What we do not accept, however, is that such dealings are termed aid to the Algerian people.

[Jamil] Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the Algerian situation in the near future?

[Mehri] In the near future, I can find nothing that calls for optimism. I am, however, optimistic about the future of Algeria, because it has potential and resources and its people are known for their experience and great patience in the face of disasters; I believe it can emerge from this crisis.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses World Tourism Organization

NC1710135195 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0820 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the 11th World Tourism Organization's General Assembly at the International Conference Center in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to this ancient city, host of the 11th session of the World Tourism Organization General Assembly.

I deeply appreciate your choice of Cairo as the session's venue. No doubt, this reflects your firm belief that Egypt is a distinguished country for tourism. [passage omitted] No force on earth can harm the character of this safe country. Its people offer all visitors generous hospitality and protect their safety and rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt that you share my view that tourism and peace are synonymous. There is no room for tourism in the absence of peace. Tourism enhances opportunities for understanding and peace. [passage omitted]

For our part, we support the tourism industry in Egypt, not only because of its numerous, important economic, national, and international benefits, but as an opportunity to secure new jobs. We also support it because it is an effective tool in enhancing the stability and peace and in establishing a foundation for broad human communication and deep cultural interaction. [passage omitted]

We also believe in the need to perpetuate a comprehensive and just peace worldwide. It is natural for us to be especially concerned to establish peace and stability in the Middle East because, in addition to its utmost importance to all the region's nations, it is an important element of world peace and security.

I do not have to tell you about Egypt's vital role in the Middle East peace process since the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat began his historic initiative in 1977. This is known and appreciated by all nations and governments.

I state before you that at present we are employing all of our efforts to expand the scope of peace for all parties so that a major historic reconciliation between the Arabs and the Israelis will occur. This requires continuing the steps made on the Palestinian track and tangible progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks without hesitation or procrastination.

We are confident that this goal will be achieved in spite of the difficulties and suspicions, no matter how great, because peace is in the interest of all the region's nations and has become a strategic option for all parties. This requires Egypt and the friendly nations to pursue our efforts without exhaustion until a comprehensive and just peace prevails over all parts of this vital region. [passage omitted]

Egypt is making persistent efforts to boost its cooperation with other countries in all spheres in order to achieve comprehensive and continuous development that will secure joint interests for everyone and deepen the sense of unity of mankind's destiny.

Since the early 1980's, Egypt has been engaged in an ambitious national program for political liberalization and economic reform to consolidate political and social democracy. In addition, it hopes to achieve further

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development and stability for Egypt as it prepares for the challenges and hopes of the 21st century. The national reform program also aims to achieve an effective transition to a free economy in which the private sector plays a primary role in development efforts with the state's sponsorship and encouragement. In the context of this program, which aims to modernize aspects of services and production and to expand the private sector's opportunities without limitations, tourism enjoys top priority. The private sector plays a primary role in tourism investment. The state provides the private sector with opportunities for success and gives incentives to encourage it to assume its national and international role. [passage omitted] Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you again for choosing Cairo as the venue for your conference. With this selection, you expressed your confidence in Egypt's tourism potential, its eagerness to play a developing role in tourism, and its balanced regional policies based on peace, stability, and justice.

I wish you all success in performing your mission. May God's peace and mercy be upon you. [applause]

Islamic Group Members Charged With 'Terrorism'

NC1710212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, public prosecutor for the Higher State Security Prosecution, has decided to refer 33 defendants who belong to the Islamic Group in the governorates of Suhaj and Asyut to the Higher State Security Court-Emergency for trial.

The indictment says that these defendants are members of terrorist groups that the deceased terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam led.

Investigations revealed that these defendants had killed 26 people, including officers, soldiers, policemen, Copts, and citizens whom the terrorists suspected of informing the police about them. They also wounded 25 people, including tourists and foreigners.

The indictment explains that these defendants blew up a train in Asyut, injuring five tourists and five Egyptians who were on board.

The indictment also says these terrorists hurled explosive devices on a bus belonging to a cement factory on which a number of Romanian experts were riding. They also opened fire on a bus carrying a number of foreign tourists in Asyut.

The Prosecution placed a number of charges against these defendants, including joining a group that whose existence was against the law and Constitution, joining an illegal political organization, committing deliberate premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and possession of firearms, explosives, and ammunition without a license for use them in disturbing law and order.

The defendants included in the referral decision are Radwan Ibrahim, Khalid 'Abdallah, Ahmad Diya'-al-Din, Muhammad 'Ali al-Badri, Mahmud Muhammad Husayn, Hasan Khalifah 'Aman, Muhammad Shawqi Tawfiq, Mahmud Faruq 'Uthman, Usamah 'Abd-al-Ghani Maqbul, Muhammad Husni 'Abd-al-Wahhab, 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad, and Rif'at Zaydan 'Abdallah.

The decision to refer the defendants to court also includes 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Uthman, Ramadan Qannawi Ahmad, Sayyid 'Umar Wahmam, 'Ala' Muhammad al-Sayyid, 'Adil Fathi Taha, Majid Khalaf Ahmad, Thabit 'Ali Hasan, Usamah Muhammad al-Kabsh, 'Ali Mahmud Hasan, Hasan Nafada 'Abd-al-Rahman, Ashraf Mahrus 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Muhammad Khalaf Rabi'i, Muhammad Sidqi 'Uthman, Nasir Huraydi Khalifah, Muhammad Muhammad Salamah, Yasir 'Ali Muhammad, al-Sayyid Ahmad al-Sayyid, Hilmi al-Sayyid Ahmad, Nasir Muhammad Hasanayn, Usamah al-Sayyid 'Uthman, and Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Cairo, Delhi To Develop 'Terrorism' 'Action Plan'

BK1710053495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indo-Egyptian Joint Commission will meet in New Delhi early next year to chalk out an action plan for combating all forms of terrorism. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in Cairo yesterday.

Talking to AIR correspondent, Pramod Bhatnagar, Mr. Bhatia said that both the countries have expressed serious concern over organized crimes in different parts of the world. Cairo was informed that many terrorist organizations are being trained in Pakistan.

Mr. Bhatia is visiting Tunisia today, where he will hold discussions with Tunisian leaders on bilateral and international issues. Both the countries will also sign a declaration on checking drug trafficking, an extradition treaty, and an agreement on civil aviation and cultural exchange.

3,000 Students Demonstrate Against MB Trial

NC1710144095 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (AFP) — Nearly 3,000 students demonstrated at Cairo University on

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Tuesday [17 October] to protest against the military trial of members of the Moslem Brotherhood [MB] fundamentalist group, an AFP correspondant said.

The students inside the campus shouted: "Islam, we will sacrifice our blood and souls for you," "Rejoice, (Israeli Premier Yitzhak) Rabin, Moslem Brothers are in prison," and "Military courts are against justice and religion."

It was the first open demonstration by Brotherhood supporters in more than 10 years.

Students touted a lynched dummy labelled "liberty," while veiled women students marched in a separate procession from the male students, all carrying copies of the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

Forty-nine members of the Moslem Brotherhood have been on trial since September 16 after President Husni Mubarak ordered them judged by a military rather than civilian court.

Banned in 1954 but tolerated since the mid-1970s, the Brotherhood accuses the government of seeking to sabotage its chances in legislative elections set for November in which the group is to field 150 candidates. A long truce between the state and the group ended last year after Mubarak accused the Brotherhood, which says it has renounced violence in its bid to create an Islamic state in Egypt, of being the source behind armed extremists. Police have since arrested dozens of the group's members.

Government's Handling of POW Case Faulted

NC1810104795 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 95 p 4

[From the "Weekend" column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "The Question of the Egyptian POW's"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The crime of the murder of Egyptian POW's by Israeli troops in the 1956 and 1967 wars is controversial. Discussing it objectively is like walking on thorns. From the start, the case has provided food for thought and aroused conflicting feelings for people who are following up on it.

In an awakening of conscience, which God only knows if it was natural, sudden, or deliberate, an Israeli brought up the case at this particular point in history and unveiled crimes that are between 28 and 39 years old. This Israeli, who remains untouched at home, has put his country in a historical dilemma. Meanwhile, the Israeli leaders' reactions to this crime range from downplaying these crimes, claiming that they represent a turned chapter in history that is pointless to reopen, or officially admitting these crimes, as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has done.

The question is: How did we in Egypt receive news about this crime and how did we handle or are handling the matter? The impression one gets from the official Egyptian position is that someone has placed a heavy burden on us at an inappropriate time. We are neither welcoming this burden nor are we capable of washing our hands of it. The way our official position on this case is worded provides the best proof of this. This position, according to official statements, can be summed up in that we are asking the Israeli authorities to investigate the matter and to do something for the sake of Egyptian public opinion. This phrasing depicts the Egyptian Government as a mere "mediator" between Israel, the perpetrator of the crime, and Egyptian public opinion in a case that concerns martyrs for the homeland and that constitutes a complete crime. By his own admission, the perpetrator of the crime has relieved us from the pain of searching for evidence. But things look as if it is a matter that concerns Egyptian public opinion only and not one relating to the entire homeland, the Egyptian people, and the Egyptian Government. In other words, it is as if the government does not represent public opinion and that its role is confined to begging the Israelis to do something to calm or satisfy public opinion.

Nobody knows what could make the Israeli Government enthusiastic enough to investigate a case that the Egyptian Government itself is not eager to investigate or even to bother to announce that it would do so, at least to satisfy public opinion. Also, nobody knows what we would do if Israel did investigate the matter and provided us with misleading or faulty results; how would we verify these results if we did not carry out our own investigation, collect all the relevant evidence and documents, and listen to the testimonies of the commanders, soldiers, civilians, and families of the MIA's from the two wars to pinpoint any contradictions.

We sometimes set up administrative and parliamentary committees to find the facts about the loss of a company, a tourist resort, etc. Do not the lives of hundreds of our martyrs deserve the formation of military, political, parliamentary, and popular fact-finding committees to investigate the murder and annihilation of unarmed people? I call upon President Husni Mubarak, who was a military commander before a politician, who fought wars, and who knows what the murder of POW's means, to order an investigation and form fact-finding committees representing all those concerned. The purpose of this would not be to escalate the issue or create a crisis with Israel, this is not what we want, but at least there would be a parallel investigation, so that the people and the world could know the truth, and

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so Egyptian soldiers on active duty today and in the future could be reassured that their lives and destinies are worth risking a mere investigation.

Israeli Casualties in Lebanon Blamed on Israel

NC1810093095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says Israel has created the problem in southern Lebanon with its own hands. Several years ago it refused to withdraw from that area. Instead, Israel established a security zone there on the pretext of protecting its northern settlements and preventing Palestinian resistance fighters from infiltrating or shelling them with katyusha rockets.

The newspaper says this so-called security zone has increased the Israeli forces' casualties at the hands of the Lebanese Resistance fighters. Consequently, Israel has stepped up its air raids on the farms and houses of civilians in southern Lebanon.

The newspaper says if Israel really wants to protect its border with Lebanon, it will immediately enter into peace talks with the Lebanese Government and allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in southern Lebanon and keep the peace there. The newspaper says Israel's actions are an excuse to continue its occupation of southern Lebanon with the hope of ultimately annexing this part of Lebanon.

The newspaper expresses astonishment because Israel has not taken any positive steps yet to end this situation by holding serious talks with the Lebanese Government on solving this problem and withdrawing its forces from the so-called security zone.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Expulsion of Egyptians Criticized

NC1710195895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic on 14 October publishes on pages 1 and 8 the 2,500-word "The Political Stance" column by Ibrahim Sa'dah, entitled "Welcome To The Colonel." Sa'dah begins by saying that in a few days Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will arrive in Cairo, or Alexandria, or Marsa Matruh on an official visit lasting "a few hours, a few days, or a few weeks." He adds: "I do not know exactly how long he will stay, because with the brother colonel we have gotten used to anything happening, everything changing, for some reason or for no reason."

Sa'dah notes that the Egyptian people have never been more interested in a visit by the colonel to Egypt as this one, because of the "significant events that preceded it," which the colonel alone can explain and justify to the Egyptian public.

Sa'dah explains that these events consist of terminating the work contracts of Egyptian, Palestinian, and Sudanese workers and gathering them in detention camps to expel them from Libya. He notes that foreign media do not distinguish between the three nationalities being expelled, whereas Arab media concentrate on the Palestinians even though the majority expelled from the "Libyan heaven" are Egyptian. He explains that the expulsion decision itself was not surprising because this has happened many times before. "The new, surprising, and strange thing about the recent expulsion decision is the justifications that were given for it and the explanation the colonel himself offered when he went to the Libyan-Egyptian border a few days ago and held a news conference amid the expellees to congratulate them on their expulsion, the expropriation of their property, and loss of their livelihood." Sa'dah thanks al-Qadhdhafi for warning Egypt in his speech about the NATO preparations for an extensive attack on Egypt. Sa'dah mocks al-Qadhdhafi's claim that some "naive" Egyptians believe their country is safe because it has recognized Israel and is friends with the United States.

Sa'dah cites at length al-Qadhdhafi's speech to the expellees on the border with Egypt, in which he ignored the Egyptian and Sudanese workers and concentrated only on the Palestinian. He notes: "The brother colonel tried to give the decision to expel foreign Arab workers from his country extremely profound strategic dimensions with extremely nationalist and pan-Arab characteristics." He notes that al-Qadhdhafi said the Palestinians themselves had asked to return to their new homeland, but that Libya, as a result of the embargo, could not transport them by air to where they wanted to go, leaving them on the border with Egypt."

Sa'dah says of al-Qadhdhafi's speech: "The important thing, as I see it, is to remind the brother colonel that his expulsion order was not limited to the Palestinian workers in Libya. The decision included a much greater number of Egyptian workers there. The colonel should not ignore the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers in all productive sectors in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and that each one of these should be thanked for contributing to production and the development of his second home, Libya. The great shock was the decision to expel them en masse without their having committed any crime or being guilty of anything."

"The strange thing is," Sa'dah continues, "that relations between the two leaders in Cairo and Tripoli are as good as ever and that President Husni Mubarak is

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the only one who has defended Libya, and continues to defend it. He has succeeded over and over again in preventing tougher sanctions from being imposed on Libya." Sa'dah elaborates on the huge shock the Egyptian people have had from al-Qadhdhafi's measures and the horrors their compatriots in Libya have been going through. He notes that this is not the first time Egyptians have been subjected to these measures, but this time is much worse than ever before.

Sa'dah says he welcomes al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Egypt "in hopes that he will take advantage of this opportunity to talk to the Egyptian people and explain to them the reasons why the Egyptians working in Libya are being abused amid justifications for the mass expulsion order that is being applied to them as to the Palestinians and the Sudanese." Sa'dah insists that Egyptians have a right to learn from the Libyan leader himself why Egyptian workers in Libya were mistreated. He concludes by telling al-Qadhdhafi: "Believe me, Mr. President, when I tell you that Egyptian public opinion is boiling with rage at what it has heard about the humiliation Egyptians have been subjected to, after working and producing until recently in their second homeland, Libya."

University Ordered To Let Students Wear Veils

NC1710215295 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (AFP) — A Cairo court on Tuesday [17 October] overturned a university ruling banning women students from wearing all-covering Islamic veils by ordering that six veiled students be allowed entry, legal officials said.

The six students had been barred from Helwan University in south Cairo because they wore the "niqab" a veil that covers most of the body leaving only the eyes exposed.

Last week the same administrative court ordered the university to admit another veiled student, saying that wearing the niqab "is a matter of personal choice."

"If the university wants to verify the identity of the student it should employ female security officers to do so," the court ruled.

Officials from Egypt's universities said in September they would ban the niqab just before the start of the new school year.

Last year similar rulings allowed niqab-wearing students to enter Cairo and Helwan Universities and Asyut University in south Egypt, where the Islamic movement has a strong presence among students.

Contract To Build, Launch Nilesat Signed

NC1510161995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended a ceremony during which a contract was signed to manufacture and put into orbit the Egyptian satellite Nilesat. Built with the most sophisticated technology in this sphere, it will be Egypt's first satellite and will usher in a new era for the country. The satellite's manufacture and launching will cost $158 million. It will be put into orbit in September 1997.

Amin Basyuni, chairman of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union's board of trustees, signed for Egypt. The representative of the French firm building the satellite signed for it.

The information minister stated that Egypt is today entering a new era qualifying it to face the next century. He added that the Egyptian satellite will use a compressed system, the most modern communications system worldwide, and will have room for 48 television channels. It will provide an annual revenue of $50 million during its projected 15-year lifespan.

On behalf of Egyptian media, Safwat al-Sharif congratulated President Mubarak, noting that fate has destined that the signing of the contract for this great achievement should coincide with the first day of Mubarak's 15th year in office, thus providing a testimonial to his era and a document marking the laying of a new brick in the edifice of the modern Egyptian state.

Journalists Demand New Press Law by 24 Dec

NC1310211595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 13

[Recommendations approved at the extraordinary session of the Journalists Association's General Assembly on 8 October]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The extraordinary general assembly of the Journalists Association which met on 8 October 1995 expresses its deep concern over the slow work of the committee charged with preparing the new press law since it was established on 15 July to date.

The general assembly notes that this committee has not started to discuss the major issues that are supposed to be included in the new press law even though 78 days have passed since the committee's first meeting on 22 July 1995. It also notes that the committee has almost exhausted the time it was given to complete its task, namely the three months which the president of the republic set during his meeting with the Journalists Association council in June. The same period of time

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was included in the statement issued by the information minister.

The association has from the start been eager to fulfill its commitment to a serious and objective dialogue to resolve the crisis over Law 93 of 1995 through unified legislation that would repeal Law 93 and protect the Egyptian press' freedom and independence and the journalists' security and stability within the framework of constitutional freedoms, rights, and duties. Therefore, this general assembly calls on all concerned parties to fulfill their commitments in a way that will strengthen the bridges of understanding and mutual confidence and remove suspicions and doubts from the dialogue.

In implementation of this, the general assembly is invited to a meeting on 24 December to review the situation and make a decision. The association representatives in the committee will withdraw from it if a law is not enacted repealing Law 93 for 1995 and if the committee does not submit a new press law that will protect the freedom of the press and the journalists. The general assembly will then discuss all the other alternatives and options.

In implementation of the association general conference's resolution to form a joint committee of jurists and journalists to prepare the new press law and in light of the recommendation that the new press law should be presented in the name of the association to the committee charged with preparing the new press law;

And in light of the commitment of the association's representatives in the committee to the new law in accordance with its general assembly recommendations;

The general assembly at its meeting this day, 8 October, presided over by Journalists Association Chairman Jalal 'Isa, decides to appoint the following members to the joint committee:

1. From the Jurists: Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd, Dr. Nur-al-Din Farhat, Counselor Sa'id al-Jamal, Nabil al-Hilali, and the Association's legal adviser 'Ismat al-Hawari.

2. From the journalists: Kamil Zuhayri, Makram Muhammad Ahmad, Sa'id Sunbul, Salah-al-Din Hafiz, Husayn 'Abd-al-Raziq, and Jalal 'Arif.

3. From the Association council's members: Aminah Shafiq, Majdi Muhanna, Yahya Qallash, Raja' al-Mirghani, Hatim Zakariya, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khatir, and Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud.

4. The committee will finish its work one month from today, 8 October. [passage omitted]

The general assembly also calls on the political parties to include a commitment to repeal Law 93 for 1995 in their elections programs and calls on the people to support the courageous deputies who opposed the law.

The assembly underlines the need to implement the resolutions it took in the past to investigate association members who have not abided by the general assembly's resolutions opposing this suspicious law. It also reminds the press that it should not deal with or publish the names of those who helped prepare this law.

The assembly also underlines the inadmissibility of trying civilians in military courts. It demands that the association building should not be demolished before Law 93 for 1995 has been repealed. It also calls for establishing a fund, to be financed by members, to back the journalist candidates in the forthcoming People's Assembly elections.

Decisions Made on Media's Role During Elections

NC1710190495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1655 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied a report published by an opposition newspaper to the effect that the Council of Ministers at its meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, will discuss a report on authorizing the Public Information Authority [PIA] to prepare printed campaign matter for the candidates of the National Democratic Party [NDP] during the upcoming People's Assembly electoral race.

The information minister said that this report is baseless, part and parcel. He stressed that the PIA has absolutely no role in supporting the NDP candidates.

Meanwhile, the information policies committee met under Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif today. The committee made a number of decisions concerning the media's role during the election campaign.

The decisions ban any radio or television interviews with current Peoples' Assembly members who will contest the elections as well as with other candidates. The decisions also ban any candidate working in the various information sectors from appearing on television or talking on the radio during the election campaign. The decisions instruct the heads of the television and radio stations to be alert to prevent anyone from exploiting, either directly or indirectly, their programs to serve any candidate in the People's Assembly elections.

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Libya

Leader 'Rejects' Membership in UN Security Council

LD1710151295 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Statement issued by "an official source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Great Jamahiriyah rejects the membership of the Security Council of the United Nations in its present situation in which it has become a pliable tool in the hand of one state, i.e. the United States of America. The latter is using it [the Security Council] according to its own desires to achieve its selfish interests, regardless of the international community's will or its aspirations for a world where peace, justice, and equality between nations prevail.

Given this unbalanced situation in which double standards have taken control and the United Nations has lost its credibility, it has become difficult for the Great Jamahiriyah to accept a council controlled by one state. It will not accept this membership unless things are put right and the General Assembly is given back its stature so it has the last word in the international community's important issues, among which international peace and security are at the forefront, and the Security Council becomes an executive instrument for the General Assembly's resolutions.

Only then can all peoples, especially the smaller ones, avoid the tyranny of the superpowers, be reassured about their future, and enjoy security, stability and welfare.

This statement expresses the Great Jamahiriyah's stance. What happened regarding this issue was only consultations between the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and international Cooperation and Egypt's foreign minister, and between the brother secretary and the foreign ministers of the African states.

Delegation Tells UN of Concern Over Dimona Leaks

LD1710171095 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The delegation of the Great Jamahiriyah taking part in the proceedings of the Political Committee of the UN General Assembly's 50th session expressed the Great Jamahiriyah's concern over reports revealing an increase in the level of nuclear radiation emanating from the Israeli Dimona reactor in the Negev desert.

The delegation said in its address before the committee that this issue exposed the peoples of the region, including of the Great Jamahiriyah, to great dangers, particularly as the Israelis had not joined the Nonproliferation Treaty, and had not put their nuclear establishments under the supervision of the IAEA.

The Great Jamahiriyah's delegation welcomed the adherence of a number of countries that possess nuclear weapons to halting nuclear tests, warning at the same time, of some countries' attempts to put preliminary and unjust restrictions on transferring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and banning it from the developing countries, including the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the end of its address, the Great Jamahiriyah's delegation called on the advanced countries to offer the maximum possible help to the developing countries to exploit the atom for peaceful means.

The Great Jamahiriyah also called on the international community to offer its utmost to prepare the conditions that will enable the people of the regions who did not enjoy self-rule to determine their fate, and achieve their independence without any restrictions or conditions. [passage omitted]

The delegation pointed out that the countries in charge of administering the regions that did not enjoy self-rule continued to violate the sacred trust assigned to them, and had not adhered to the principles stipulated in the UN Charter. It referred to the islands under American and English domination, calling for the ending of the colonial reality that many of the administration authorities in those islands attempted to conceal, by putting forward political initiatives aiming at belittling the significance of the colonial state of affairs, emphasizing the responsibility of the United Nations and administration authorities for the continued colonial and economic situation of the regions that had not determined their fate until now. [passage omitted]

Paper Attacks Arab, International Media

LD1710190595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 17 Oct (JANA) — The AL-SHAMS newspaper said: For the first time in modern Arab history, all subservient Arab and international media agree unanimously on a single view, which is that the main and intrinsic reason that made Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declare himself the enemy of America and the West is his firm stances in support of the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and liberate it from the Israeli enemy. This firm stance, from which he has not moved a fingertip for more than

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a quarter of a century, is the reason that motivated America to consider him its first enemy.

The newspaper added: For the first time in the modern history of the world, subservient press, media, and political forces ally against the Arab people to contrive conspiracies, intrigues, and rumors against its liberation orientations in order to provide the justification to the greatest creator of terrorism, America.

The newspaper asked: Why have the subservient pens agreed to write in Arabic together with the Voice of America and the Western crusading radio stations that use Arabic as a means to disseminate their poison against the Libyan Arab people and their leader, in an attempt to make of the return of the Palestinians from the Great Jamahiriyah to their homeland a humanitarian and refugee issue, and that it was a complicated issue that required an urgent Arab and international solution?

It added: Why are these mad and subservient trumpets, and the radio stations of the Voice of America and the West, pretending to cry over the decision that the Palestinian masses present on Libyan Arab soil have adopted to return to their homeland?

It asked: Do they want the Palestinian people to live scattered in the different parts of the world for ever so that Palestinian land remains for the Israeli enemy. Are not these pens that mourn and shout at the decision of the Palestinian masses' return from Libya, which they took by themselves, the same pens that hailed, praised, and blessed the Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and described it as a victory to the Palestinian right, and that the mere presence of a Palestinian flag, police, and president on the Palestinian land in Gaza and Jericho was considered a crowning to the struggle of the Palestinian people?

Daily: Palestinians Made Decision To Leave Libya

LD1610165695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1415 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 16 Oct (JANA) — AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR has reiterated that the decision of the Palestinian brethren to return home was not imposed, nor were they forced to take it. Rather, it was a personal decision made by the Palestinians living in the Great Jamahiriyah, once they fully understood the aims of the schemes being concocted against their homeland, Palestine, as well as the real situation. Once the brother leader of the revolution kindly gave them a true picture of the situation, the decision to return was made.

The daily added "we do, however, welcome such a courageous decision that will create the new reality and expose the true nature of the peace that has been applauded, blessed, and backed by many people."

The daily wondered "since the decision to return was made in such a manner and in accordance with the conviction of the Palestinians themselves, why some people have been trying to embarrass us as if we were tying the Palestinians to a rope that we can use to pull them in a direction of our choice." "Therefore, why have some people been asking us to retract our decision? Trying to explain to us a number of issues that will not change any thing as far as this matter is concerned, for, and this should be very clear, the decision was not ours and therefore, we are not in the position to withdraw it," the paper insisted.

Moreover, the daily pointed out that those who have been throwing naive accusations at the Great Jamahiriyah should come and talk to the Palestinians, staying at the imaginary borders between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt, in order to understand the problem from its source instead of saying rancorous things, which should never be said.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR added "we do not think that the Great Jamahiriyah would have been, under normal circumstances, unable to accommodate 30,000 Palestinians or even 300,000 Palestinians. If the problem had been one of accommodation it would have been easy to resolve, for we are accommodating at this very moment more than 2 million Arabs and Africans; 30,000 more Palestinians should never have been a problem compared to this huge number."

Furthermore, the daily wondered what was the noise all about? Why should there be so much concern and restlessness? As far as we are concerned we did not deport anyone, nor did we force anyone to leave his country.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR concluded its article saying: "Everything reported by Arab and Western media on the so-called deportation of Palestinians by Libya will always remain a meaningless and an unacceptable altercation. However, instead of continuing such a nonsense, it will be better if everyone tries to understand that we did not force the Palestinian to make the decision to return and therefore, we cannot force them to withdraw it. It is as simple as that."

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Saudi Arabia

Finance Minister Said Fired for Urging Spending Cuts

NC1710214195 Paris AFP in English
2103 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 17 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sacked his "insolent" finance minister after he suggested the kingdom's royal family should tighten its belts, an opposition group said Tuesday [17 October].

A statement from the exiled Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights received in Cyprus said Suleyman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayyim was sacked after asking about the royal family's expenditure.

He called on King Fahd to "adopt the recommendations of a report drawn up by British experts on the need to end wastage in the royal family's spending," the statement said.

King Fahd felt the request was "insolent," the London-based Islamic group said.

On October 9 the official agency SPA announced that al-Sulayyim had resigned for health reasons and that 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin 'Abdallah al-Khuayter had been charged with his duties.

Al-Sulayyim was appointed in early August in the country's first cabinet shake-up in 20 years, and his resignation was the first of the new government.

Saudi Arabia, which gets 80 percent of its income from oil revenues, has suffered a chronic budget deficit for several years estimated at 10.6 billion dollars in 1994 following the fall in oil prices.

Electricity Firms To Hire More Nationals

LD1510173495 Riyadh SPA in English
1247 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Oct 15, SPA — The Council of National Manpower has issued a plan aimed at substituting expatriates for nationals in the administration, operation and maintenance of the electricity companies in the kingdom. Dr Husayn Bin-'Umar Mansur, secretary general of the Council said the Saudization plan would be completed by the year 2000.

More specifically, the Saudization plan of the consolidated electricity companies is targeted at raising the size of national manpower in these companies from a 58-73 per cent in the ground year to 65-84 per cent by the year 2000. The target for the companies supervised by the general electricity company is to reach a range of 55-75 per cent by the end of the year 2000.

In line with the plan, the electricity companies in the kingdom would pay more attention to their affiliated training centers and upgrade their performance so as to attract more Saudi nationals. In addition, the companies would diversify their training programmes, oversee on-the-job training and make use of specialized private and public consultant companies. The companies would also take measures to make the work atmosphere more conducive to attract the Saudi workforce and help them feel stable in their career.

Five Beheaded in Jeddah for Heroin Smuggling

LD1610133795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 16 October broadcasts a brief report on an Interior Ministry statement issued today that four Nigerians, three men and one woman, and a Pakistani were beheaded for heroin smuggling. The ministry statement says that the five people were arrested, tried, convicted and executed according to Islamic law for smuggling heroin into the kingdom. They were beheaded in the area of holy Mecca, in the city of Jeddah, today.

The statement names the five as Binta Bint Muhammad 'Ali, Ahmad Bukar 'Ali, Abd al-Fattah Ikini Muhammad, all from Nigeria, and Ya'qub Bin 'Ali Bin Muhammad from Pakistan.

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Saddam Takes Constitutional Oath as President

Details of Ceremony Reported

JN1710221395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2047 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)— President Saddam Husayn has taken the constitutional oath as president of the republic before a joint session of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the National Assembly.

When his excellency honored the conference hall with his arrival, everyone stood to salute Iraq while the republican anthem was played. At the same time, a 101-gun salute was fired.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, chairman of the Higher Committee Supervising the Public Referendum, delivered a speech in which he declared President Saddam Husayn's winning of the post of the president of the republic in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the regulations of the Public Referendum Law.

The RCC vice chairman invited President Saddam Husayn to take the constitutional oath.

Putting his right hand on the Holy Koran, his excellency took the following constitutional oath:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

I swear by Almighty God and by my honor and belief that I will maintain Iraq's independence, safety, and territorial integrity; that I will maintain the republican system and abide by the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution, the Constitution, and the law; and that I will look after the people's interests and work most selflessly and earnestly to maintain the people's dignity, pride, and happiness and achieve the Arab nation's objectives— freedom, unity, and socialism.

After his excellency was sworn in, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrabim asked President Saddam Husayn to receive the nation's gift to his excellency, the sword and the pencil. His excellency received the gift with thanks. The RCC vice chairman then invoked God Almighty with the following: May God guide our beloved leader with the sword and the pencil toward justice, right, and fairness. Amen.

He then invited his excellency to address the blessed audience, our great people, and our glorious nation. His excellency delivered two speeches. The first speech, addressed to those present, dealt with the meanings of the referendum and the national and pan-Arab commitments it entails.

The second speech was addressed to the great Iraqi people and the armed forces, their glorious vanguard.

The audience interrupted the president's speeches with lengthy applause.

When the president ended his speech, the Republican anthem announcing the end of the swearing-in ceremony was played.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the former and present members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Comman , the Iraq Command members, ministers, ministers of state, the president of the Iraqi Court of Cassation, and those with the rank of minister.

The ceremony was also attended by former members of the Iraq Command, and former ministers who became ministers following the glorious 17-30 July.

The ceremony was also attended by Ex-President 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Arif, Syria's Ex-President Lieutenant General Amin al-Hafiz, and speakers of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. Also attending were men of religion, representatives of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, theJuly revolutionaries, members of the Strugglers Organization, advisers at the Presidency, and heads of professional federations and unions.

The RCC members, members of the National and Iraq Commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, cabinet ministers, the National Assembly members, and all attendees were honored to shake hands with the president and congratulating him on his victory in the public referendum as the president of the Republic of Iraq, beseeching Almighty God to protect his excellency and achieve clear victory for Iraq at his hands.

Saddam Gives Address at Ceremony

JN1810062095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2144 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at a swearing-in ceremony for the post of president before a joint session of the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly in Baghdad on 17 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. [Koranic verse]

Brothers, sisters, comrades: God's blessings and peace be upon you. We and you commemorate and celebrate this beautiful day unlike any other people, who may commemorate and celebrate only the inauguration into office of a head of state. Such an event may happen here

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or there. Regardless of the meanings of such an event it will not take the same meanings of this meeting on this day, in the Baghdad of Arabism, history, and the present.

We today commemorate and celebrate even a greater and bigger event, one that has more supreme values and significance. We today celebrate the position of the great Iraqi people and their free will, through which they said yes, before the entire world, to themselves and to their leadership, and to their present, future, and past on 15 October 1995. This despite the injustice, wrong, and harm that was planned, and inflicted against them. By doing so, they also said no at the same time to all the hostile rank, which you all know. This, brothers and sisters, is the day of the great march after which the manifest victory will be crowned for all the world to see, God willing. [applause]

The generous struggling and great Iraqi people deserve to be honored for their determination, not only in this place or in Iraq alone, but anywhere they may be whether within the large homeland or abroad. By adopting this position and by adhering to all principles of national and pan-Arab resistance, every Iraqi has brought to mind the depth of the history of all the Arabs and what should be their present condition as well as free and just future aspirations. Every Iraqi has brought to mind all the responsibilities which were placed on his shoulder by this phase of history on the national and the pan-Arab levels so that he will be an example to be emulated in terms of construction, righteousness, and jihad, and so that he may be the shield of protection in the face of filth and evil in today's world and in the face of its tyrants.

It would not be an exaggeration if I said that the Iraqis have done a favor for all of humanity because they showed humanity the misdeeds of the tyrants of this age — misdeeds which were not revealed earlier. They have revealed to humanity the lie of the new world, they have revealed the lie of the so-called new world, the disguised desire to dominate, oppress, and mislead others, and the policy of double standards. Today, we celebrate with you these human values and principles and attend the lofty proceedings of this celebration. We have come here, as you know us, without applying any cosmetics — called "make up" in Western terminology — as some of the Western presidents use on similar occasions.

As I am wearing this civilian suit instead of a military uniform, I hope you will excuse me because it, along with the necktie I am wearing, may look old-fashioned and may not be in line with their development in recent years. This is because we are living under a blockade, as you know.

Saddam Husayn did not tour the referendum centers throughout Iraq during the preparations for this referendum or on the day of the referendum. This is because Saddam is content and fully proud of what the clever Iraqis and his faithful comrades do.

Saddam Husayn did not hire a private propaganda company or a public relations company — as some countries call it — to introduce and to describe Saddam Husayn to the public and talk about him, as is done by others. This is because the great Iraqi people have long known Saddam Husayn.

Moreover, Saddam Husayn did not preoccupy himself with raising money as a means to this end. Instead, the path of struggle and jihad as well as Saddam's relationship with his great people and militant comrades and his reliance on the known principles were the road to their hearts and to this end.

Zealous Iraqis took the initiative and spent money hosting guests and facilitating the mission of those entrusted with official duties pertaining to the referendum as well as transporting guests or citizens who needed transportation to the ballot boxes. Saddam Husayn did not make any prior commitment to this or that private sector company or to the lobbies with special interests — as they are called in other countries. These lobbies, however, do not exist in our country. Similar groups often embark on funding the election activity and propaganda for this or that world leader, particularly in the West.

Nor did Saddam Husayn, whom you have chosen, make an advanced commitment, pending the referendum results, to this or that representative of any world state. This is because we owe nobody any favors when it comes to our relationship with our people or with the state agencies before that date, or when it comes to the results of this referendum.

However, I am, brothers, tied by a stronger bond and commitment to our dear, noble people; a commitment that stems from the true religion based on principles and on loyalty to the positions of the people and their great pan-Arab zeal; and a commitment dictated by the circumstances and sacrifices of struggle and jihad and the common aspiration to advance forward.

On the basis of our people's major interests, I, God willing, will look after all legal and lawful private businesses and companies in the service of our country's interests, in addition to our commitment to our socialist course and line.

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On the basis of the principles of our glorious nation, the Republic of Iraq president is committed to every sincere and faithful Arab who is committed to working to open a new chapter of better relations with anyone who seeks them in a spirit of responsibility and who does not hide a dagger in the dark. He is also committed to every nation in the world seeking friendship with Iraq, or is prepared for equitable bilateral relations based on the principles of the UN Charter.

This is our commitment. It is not a commitment based on self interests or a debt, which we have to repay to anyone. It is not dictated by elections or the referendum. Rather, it is dictated by the principles or the interests of the state and its people, and by our pan-Arab view toward our nation and our humanitarian view and responsibility in our world environment.

Greetings to all of you, brothers and sisters. We had great hopes that Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the National Assembly speaker, would be with us now. We wish him speedy recovery. [applause]

Greetings of love and high appreciation to my brother and comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman and chairman of the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum, for the efforts he and his brothers and comrades exerted in the Higher Commission, the party's militant organizations, and in the sub-committees. Greetings to all of them for their efforts.

God is great.

Thank you, brothers.

Saddam Addresses Nation Following Ceremony

JN1810080695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2159 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to the "great Iraqi people" following his taking the oath of office at a joint session of the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly in Baghdad on 17 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now, brothers, allow me to address the great Iraqi people, their struggling vanguard, and their valiant Armed Forces from this podium and in your presence.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And say: Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished, for falsehood is by its nature bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

O splendid, sincere, and militant Iraqis, O great, glorious, faithful, and persevering Iraqi women, O great fighters of our brave Armed Forces, O comrades, God's peace and blessings be upon you.

From the time we worked underground, when we were active and a living part of secret cells of struggle, fighting for the people and the nation led by principles which are today the principles of all the great and zealous Iraqis, we have looked at you, your stands, aspirations, and aims to realize a better future outside of conventional figures, ratios, and calculations. We have never transformed the humane Iraqi character under any consideration into a mere figure or figures. We viewed you on a uniform basis within the course of the fateful and historical relationship and within the same framework, body, and spirit of a sincere, cohesive family that loves virtue and which is bent on building great Iraq and facing difficulties and vicissitudes.

While others, be they from inside our structure and march or from outside, viewed you, O Iraqis, on the basis of negative aspects and weaknesses that are issued or seen here or there and which are caused by repercussions produced by the circumstances of the failure to establish connections with the values of the glorious past and the absence of the shepherd and his role, we always viewed your capabilities and resources within the great aspirations, guided by your historic role which is linked with the brightest pages of the history of our glorious Arab nation and great Iraq.

We have viewed you, O people of noble descent, and you glorious Iraqi women, with the confidence and high hopes you are worthy of, and with the appreciation and recognition you deserve. You have always been big in our eyes. [applause] You have always been big in our eyes. Our view of you has gone beyond comparing our country's area with that of others, or comparing its temporary economic potentials or its current social and cultural conditions with those of others, to what is bigger, greater, and more capable and bountiful.

Our principles, living consciousness, and sincere interaction with the present on the basis of the future image, and our genuine love and militant responsibility were alone — and not any factor of weakness or restriction — the spur used to urge us to act and shoulder our responsibility to you and the future.

All this was strengthened within us in a more comprehensive, precise, and supreme way whenever we climbed the steps of responsibility with God's help and yours, until our view toward you, and all the aspirations and dreams of a future that befits you have become one.

Changing the present to what is better is only a buttress for crossing to what is more supreme in terms of significance and brightness. The more the

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dangers against and around us grow, and the more our determination is tested by difficulties, the stronger we adhere to that position and the firmer we grow, dreaming in the process of a greater, better future. We always feel, even in our present time with its exceptional difficult circumstances, that the future is tangible and will inevitably be achieved, after relying on God the omnipotent and when God the merciful, the compassionate wills.

This is how we were, and that is what we believe in today. This is the way we viewed you and this is the way we will always view you, your stands and role, and our relationship with you as one honorable and faithful family in an Iraq of love and principles that are as constant as the absolute truth, Iraq of the past, present, and future.

It was on this basis that we undertook our responsibility with honor and went along the path with you advancing from one stage to another, sailing in our proud ship from one shore to another, and facing the difficulties of trying to cross to the other side. As you are well aware, we believe in the people and in their awareness of their rights and duties. We also believe that we represent their will in choosing what we have chosen as a course to follow together and as a path for struggle and jihad, first before the revolution, and then as a pathway and free means of a happy life. Our aim was to build a structure that is in line with our role and will for the present and future following the success of the great 17-30 July revolution and until this very day.

The meaning of democracy in terms of the relationship between the authority and the people is that the authority should be that of the people, in other words, it should be representative of their will. It should guide them, interact with them, and give them the opportunity to increase their ability and awareness to a level that constitutes the basis from which the authority proceeds in making future choices and decisions in all aspects of people's life.

We have adhered to the essence of this principle since the success of the revolution. You recall that the first open symposium in the history of Iraq to be held by an official on the level which we occupied at the time, was the one held under the slogan "You ask and the party answers" in the Scouts' Stadium on 12 May 1970. It was attended by many people, including hostile parties, who were waiting for a chance to embarrass officials.

The wide structure of the trade union and professional popular organizations for workers, peasants, students, youths, women, teachers, lawyers, jurists, doctors, engineers, pharmacists, and others has been, and still is, part of this march.

Afterward, the National Progressive and Patriotic Front was established as part of the revolution's democratic course. The democratic march was followed by the elections of the National Assembly, the Legislative Council for the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and the people's councils which we seek to develop, God willing.

This is the essence of our belief. The democratic substance, which is based on people's rule, means the people's free election of their representatives to various posts. Moreover, freedom and the related meanings of choice and democratic expression are a basic pillar of three pillars which represent the ideological structure designed to choose our path of construction and jihad.

This description is not only one of the requirements of rule; it is actually a great ideological, militant, and ethical commitment based on faith. We have gone a long way on this path despite the difficult circumstances. The challenge, chosen by the enemies, is only our historic opportunity, as a great people and a sincere and honest leadership, to tell or assert to the world that deeds are greater than words. In other words, the people are true to themselves and to their leadership, and the leadership is true to its promises.

We in the leadership and the Revolution Command Council made the decision to hold the referendum now and not at another time. Hence, determination, or genuine confrontation, and jihad on the path of principles and genuine relationship have come in a way splendidly fulfilling the wish, which was the logical result. We in Iraq, as a people and a leadership, do not need to prove this result after it passed all forms of constraints, challenges, and construction tasks.

It is, however, our historic opportunity as a people and leadership — after entering the stage of test and challenge — to award this great course and the history of this great, faithful people, who, after Almighty God, deserve all appreciation, with the highest medal of faithfulness. It is an opportunity to strongly declare to the entire world that, following the fighting and siege which aimed at annihilating this people and undermining the meanings of their humanity and patriotism, the Iraqi people are free, faithful, loyal, mature, capable, and true strugglers, and that they are heroic the likes of whom are few. This people does not have the characteristic of a transient occasion, as claimed by others.

Therefore, this people chose Saddam Husayn in the referendum [applause] in the midst of the policy of starvation the evil aggressors are carrying out and the futile threats, and the clamor raised by the midgets, the agents, and the lackeys. The people chose Saddam Husayn as their president and leader. [applause]

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If I thank you, O Iraqis, like those who thank their people only on occasions and those who rely only on their positions, I will deprive you of your historic right. It would then appear as if I was surprised by your capability, alertness, principled stands, firm commitment to your stand and pledge. Also, I would deprive myself of my right, because it would appear as if I do not know what I should know being a vital part of you before the revolution and throughout the past 27 years since the success of the revolution in its first chapter on 17-30 July 1968.

Almighty God says in the Koran: "If you thank Me I will give you more." You have renewed your pledge to continue efforts and to protect your achievements from those who try to destroy them and who try to destroy the genuine relationship between the people and their leadership. In view of your position, I say: Praise be to Almighty God, Who dignified me through you and guided me to a path which pleases Him.

Thank you, noble Iraqi men, glorious Iraqi women, and the stalwarts in our valiant Armed Forces. Thank you for this great confidence which you have declared at the top of your voice and in figures which the whole world can see.

Thanks to our great people. I beseech God to help us demonstrate this confidence in its field to please you and enhance your status before God and in the eyes of the nations of the earth. Thanks to the men and women. I kiss the heads of old people among you. [applause]

I salute everybody. My kisses to the eyes of the children of Iraq, its boys and young men.

Thanks to the brothers and friends who came to Iraq to watch the referendum festival, whether those people came to learn the truth as it is or to declare their solidarity with the great people of Iraq and with us because they already know the truth. Praise be to God. God is great.

Brothers: Iraq established the first state in the history of mankind and the first civilization in the world. The rulers and leaders in those ancient days were also the first to deal with the broadest base of government, compared with the situation of others around them at that time and in view of the concepts of the ancient times of this issue. Thus, we see that when the legendary hero, King Gilgamesh, decided to search for the secret of immortality, he vested the authority of the king with the city's council of wise men, which was formed in 3,000 BC.

In our Arab and Islamic history, a pledge was an advanced democratic formula which expressed the interaction of the masses of the nation with their leaders to build a society marked by faith, justice, freedom, and prosperity.

If we compare the above meanings with the circumstances of the modern age, we will see the greatest suffering and the great labor of the birth of our great, struggling people. In this time, we see the most effective capabilities of a free, besieged people who are subject to the attacks of all the unjust tyrants on earth, along with their followers and proteges.

Stemming from these facts, from this place and in spite of all the rarely matched circumstances of challenge, Iraq renews its human role to say to the whole world: We were the first in our civilization and faith, and we are still the first in our faith and active role. This role has profound meanings that greatly affect human action. This is why we hold a referendum while we have full freedom within us, in spite of the difficulties, at a time when the arrows and weapons of treachery are used to assassinate the external foundations and bases of this freedom.

Yes, this is how the people of Iraq cast their votes on the post of the president of the republic to chose their president and leadership, as well as their course. Thus, they declared their other message from Baghdad; namely, they are the first among people after placing their trust in God and after inspiring the meanings of their existence and role without forgetting Him.

O great people: The world around us, particularly the West, which is capable of effecting change and which is capable of faking the conditions of today's world when it wants to do so, looks at figures as if they are the only record of facts, and on these figures the results are based, including the results of the activities and effectiveness of nations, as well as their relations with the present time and with the future. They propagate this and through these they look at the future of peoples and nations. They do this when they seek the arbitration of the computer, when they want to know the level of people's linkage with their fate, their views, objectives, and relationship with their leaders.

O faithful, mujahid, honest, and patient family, now that you have spoken to them and others through the language of figures also; now that you have succeeded in crossing the seas of difficulties and blood for the sake of your freedom, dignity, principles, course, and independence; you have renewed your word to them, with a language that is understood by all — supported by testimonies of witnesses — and you have reiterated your nature as it is and your stand as it is.

You made it clear to them with figures that they understand. We have taught the deaf and dumb, as it

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were, in a humanitarian endeavor, a lesson of what should be done in today's world.

O zealous Iraqis and glorious Iraqi women, do not think for one moment that Saddam Husayn has conceded the historical course through which he understood you and on which he established his relations with you. God forbid that we become unfair to you and to ourselves and think that. Indeed, today we are even more determined to adhere to the principles in which you have known us to believe and which formed the moral and principled substance of our affiliation with you, taking into consideration that we are a living part of you.

These are the same values and principles which you have known us to uphold and with which we have introduced ourselves to you despite the fact that we are all the same. These values and principles are the ones by which you also introduced yourselves to us and to the world. They are the same principles on whose basis Saddam Husayn loved you. They are the ones on which we built this firm foundation as one family, a struggler among your ranks, and then a leader whose office is honored and brightened by your love and by affiliation with you and not by other considerations, the limelight, or the personal values associated with this office. This has been the foundation of a continuous struggle extending over 40 years.

However, your son, comrade, and brother, Saddam Husayn, in association with his comrades in the leadership and the Revolution Command Council, deemed fit that it was his responsibility and duty at this stage not to be satisfied with what he and his comrades knew about you but to make you appear as you really are in the eyes of others the world over and in the language they understand whenever an opportunity becomes available.

You have demonstrated your loyalty, your noble and great stand, your adherence to your principles and leadership through the language of figures, and what accompanied them in the referendum on the post of the president of the republic. You have also demonstrated this through the language which represents our basic path and method in knowing the honest intentions and firm stands in the fields of work, construction, and jihad, and through confronting the enemies in defense of the existence, history, and future of the great Iraq and the glorious nation, as well as their sublime historic objectives. This was the most important field in which we gained the satisfaction of God and the masses of our nation from the ocean to the Gulf. In this great historic stand, you have acquainted the world, in another opportunity, with our reality as a great people and with the reality of our deep relations with each other.

Those enemies and coveters of Iraq from outside the homeland who harbor bad intentions will not change. They will fabricate and raise other causes in the media which you exposed. Their intrigues and plots will continue, imagining that they can prevent our great people and glorious nation from accomplishing their awakening and jihad plans to lay the basis for the future and to make the future achievable and tangible, God willing.

So, help us, O noble Iraqis, through patience, which you have epitomized, and through every good endeavor — and you are the creators and source of all endeavors. God willing, we will help you with everything with which God guides us to rectify the imbalance with all that is needed and whenever this becomes necessary. I will seek support from the requirements of faith and knowledge, and with enthusiasm based on the determination which you are aware of. Success comes from God.

Help us through your deep faith and not by speculations and conjecture. Maintain your stand in support of the truth against falsehood in saying the truth and doing what is right and fair. Let not falsehood under any circumstances win any support from you. Support us and help the deprived and needy people from God's wealth which is in your hands. Help us fight evil and punish those who commit it. Keep the truth on your side and make it known to all. Bury falsehood with your great capability in the abyss it deserves after relying on Almighty God.

Help us with your encouragement to proceed on our course to achieve the objectives you know. Always tell us the truth about any obstacle that you encounter on this road. Help us see the thorns on this path and all the evil snags on it. May God support you in this world and the hereafter and may God end our ordeals and yours now and in the future, amen. God is our lord, the almighty, the great.

As for what we promise to you and pledge to you, we promise and pledge that we will continue to be as you have known us—sincere in our intentions and our principles, values, and pledges. We will be sincere in our policies and the policies whose main bases you have known for over a quarter century. We will endeavor to adopt what we deem fit for your great march. You, after the Almighty God, will be our witness. God is the best of witnesses and supporters. God is great. Long live Iraq. God is great. Long live our glorious [Arab] nation. Glory and immortality to Iraq's martyrs and the nation's martyrs. God is great. Long live the great Iraqi people and their brave Armed Forces, the comrades of

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the long path. Long live Palestine, free and Arab. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

Tariq 'Aziz on Saddam's Victory, Future Steps

JN1710113895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1127 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz asserted that important steps will be taken to enhance the democratic process in Iraq.

'Aziz said this at a news conference he held at the Conference Palace this morning. The conference was attended by Arab and foreign correspondents and representatives of news agencies, television networks, radio stations, newspapers and magazines who came to Baghdad to cover the public referendum.

'Aziz added that the public referendum in which President Saddam Husayn won the post of the president of the republic was the first step. This will be followed by other steps to move from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy.

'Aziz said that the powers of the speaker of the National Assembly will be expanded by the end of December and that a new National Assembly will be elected at the beginning of next year.

Speaking about the 15 October referendum whose results were announced yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz said: What happened on Sunday is clear evidence that the Iraqi people are united and that the anomalous situation in northern Iraq will not continue because it was imposed by the United States on our Kurdish people. When the United States takes its hand off northern Iraq, then the north will no longer be separate.

'Aziz said the Iraqi people know that the United States and its allies wanted to destroy Iraq. President Saddam Husayn, however, managed to protect Iraq and rebuild it after the destruction that was inflicted during the 30-state aggression.

'Aziz said that Iraq managed to preserve its civilization despite everything, thanks to the leadership of President Saddam, whom the people voted for.

He added: Any fair person who came to Baghdad must have reached the conclusion that the referendum was real in terms of the people's contribution and stand toward their leader, President Saddam Husayn.

'Aziz added that the essence of the referendum is that the Iraqi people took to the streets and said: We want Saddam Husayn to be the president of our country and our leader.

'Aziz said the Iraqis wanted to tell those who seek to harm them that they cling to their leader, who has worked for 27 years to serve them and make them happy. The Iraqis wanted to say that they know who is responsible for the death of thousands of children as a result of the lack of food and medicine and that they reject interference in their domestic affairs.

Responding to journalists' questions, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz reviewed Iraq's relations with Arab countries. He said: We are ready to restore dialogue with those who took part in the war against us. He added: The slogan calling for openness before reconciliation is a nice one.

Referring to statements made yesterday by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, in which he called for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, 'Aziz said: In the name of the Government of Iraq, I welcome Shaykh Zayid's statements which reflects a sound Arab attitude toward Iraq, and we thank him for that.

On relations with Egypt, 'Aziz said: Relations between Cairo and Baghdad are not fully normal. In other words, there are no full diplomatic relations. However, we meet with Egyptian officials and our foreign minister meets with his Egyptian counterpart.

He added: We informed the Egyptian Government that we wish to have normal relations with sisterly Egypt despite the difference of views.

On Iraq's relations with Iran, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq is prepared to establish normal relations and good-neighborliness based on mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs.

He added: If Tehran shares with us this desire, then we are ready to talk about promoting our bilateral relations.

He said that the invitation for the Iranian foreign minister to visit Iraq is still valid.

On Iraq's stand on the (Middle East) political settlement process, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq is not party to it. Whether it is successful or unsuccessful, right or wrong, Iraq is not concerned, neither legally nor practically.

On Iraq's relations with Turkey and stand on the so-called Hammer Force, the deputy prime minister said: I have nothing new to say. We have said and continue to say that Turkey's approval of the deployment of the so-called Hammer Force poses a tangible threat to Iraq's sovereignty and unity because of its presence on Turkish territory. Turkey is thus committing a mistake because Iraq is its neighbor and has done nothing wrong to it. Rather, it is Turkey that is doing Iraq wrong, and it must

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do something to rectify that. He said that many Turkish politicians and analysts believe that the Hammer Force poses a threat to Turkey. He said: It is amazing that the Turkish Government is maintaining this force at a time when they say that the force poses a threat to Turkey's security. This is a bizarre situation which I hope will be rectified.

Asked whether the Italian Government intends to open an interests section in Baghdad next week, Tariq 'Aziz said: Yes. I visited Italy and met with the Pope and Italian foreign minister who said that she had discussed with the Hungarian Government the opening of an Italian interests section at the Hungarian Embassy. We are looking forward to that.

The deputy prime minister reiterated Iraq's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 986, which harms Iraq's sovereignty and its people's dignity. He said: A nation that respects its sovereignty and dignity cannot accept that offer, which is a plot against the Iraqi people. The only solution is the unconditional and full lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Tariq 'Aziz reviewed Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission and supplying it with all the information it possesses. He also reviewed the role of renegade Husayn Kamil in deliberately concealing information. He described that as a U.S. scenario aimed at creating justifications and pretexts to maintain the blockade.

Further on 'Aziz Remarks

JN1710205295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video of news conference by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad on 17 October — italicized passages in English with translation from superimposed Arabic due to inaudibility of English recording]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has announced that important steps will be taken to enhance the democratic process in Iraq and that the public referendum on the post of the president of the republic was the first step. He added that a new National Assembly would also be elected early next year and that the powers of its speaker would be expanded.

During a news conference at the Conference Palace this morning, attended by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and correspondents and representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies, television networks, radio stations, newspapers, and magazines, 'Aziz said that this is the ideal time for us to begin our process of transition from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy, and above all, to give a clear picture of the people's position toward their leadership, represented by President Saddam Husayn.

At the news conference, which was also attended by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, the most senior under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry; the editors-in-chief of local newspapers and magazines; the directors general of the radio and television departments and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY; and several parliamentary and party figures, who came to acquaint themselves with the progress of last Sunday's public referendum.

He added that the referendum process was observed by all guests, as well as the people, and that any fair person has concluded that the referendum was correct in terms of the people's participation and their position toward their leader Saddam Husayn.

[Begin 'Aziz recording] If violations occur in any election or referendum, the party that is harmed can file a lawsuit with the competent legal authority specified by the law. I cannot comment on any claim by a certain person that may be right or wrong. From the legal point of view, I cannot comment on that. But the referendum, which took place in Iraq last Sunday, was seen by everybody, by you and by the people. I believe that every fair person has concluded that this referendum was fair in terms of the people's participation, the number of people who participated, and the position of the overwhelming majority who took part toward their leader President Saddam Husayn [applause]. All this was seen, and was not a game. However, if a minor mistake took place here or there, this will not change the basic reality that the overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people came out despite the difficult circumstances and despite the consequences of the blockade to say to the world: I want Saddam Husayn as president of my country and as my leader. This is the reality of the essence of the referendum. [end recording]

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the Iraqi people know that the United States and its allies wanted to destroy Iraq, but Saddam Husayn succeeded not only in protecting Iraq, but also in rebuilding it. He then referred to the threat by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to return Iraq to the precivilization era. But this country has remained civilized, historic, and industrial, thanks to its leader. Therefore, the people voted for him.

Regarding the close relations between the leader and Iraq's people, the deputy prime minister said that the people, who went to the polls, are the strength of President Saddam Husayn. We in Iraq are one family rather than a ruling family. He who rules Iraq is the president aided by the Revolution Command Council and the Party command.

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Tariq 'Aziz tackled the destructive U.S. role in northern Iraq, as well as the abortion of the dialogue with the Kurdistan front to reach an agreement on enacting a new law on the autonomy.

[Begin 'Aziz recording] *When we talk about the eighties, during the war, parts of Kurdistan and the northern region of Iraq were the scenes of fighting and battles between us and the Iranian forces. Civilians in those areas, both in villages and in cities, were suffering, whether they were Kurds or Arabs, Iranians or Iraqis. All were suffering. But in 1989, if you were in Iraq after the end of hostilities, you must have seen that the northern region of Iraq was relatively prosperous and that the president spent most of his time in the north. This means that the area was calm and peaceful and that development projects were taking place in that area. This shows that the Iraqi leadership cares for that region and deals with it because it is an indivisible part of the nation and an indivisible part of this homeland. But why is there now an abnormal situation in the north?*

In 1991, leaders of the Kurdistan Front, Talabani and Barzani, came to Baghdad together with their fellow members of the Kurdistan Front. They spent about four months in the capital of Iraq. We had lengthy and intensive discussions and deliberations on all matters related to the so-called Kurdish issue in Iraq. We agreed to enact a new autonomy law in the north. We also agreed that they would join the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers. We also agreed to hold elections within three months in the three governorates making up the Autonomous Region, which was to have a new Legislative Council. It was also agreed to form a new Executive Council in the region. We also agreed with them that one year after the signing of the agreement there would be democratic elections to elect a new National Assembly. We agreed with them that six of the Kurdish parties will be legalized and each will have a daily newspaper and a weekly magazine. That was the agreement between the Iraqi Government and the representatives of the Kurdistan Front. They were happy with that and they informed us of that. They took that agreement to the representatives of the parties of the Mas'ud Barzani-led Kurdistan Front. They took all documents to Shaqlawah for discussion with the front's representatives. Then, one of them traveled to Washington, where he met with Mr. Edward, who was then an assistant to the secretary of state for this region's affairs. He asked them: Do you intend to sign this agreement with the Iraqi Government? He said: Yes. Edward said: Are you fools? We want to topple the Saddam Husayn regime, but this agreement will strengthen his position. Therefore, he prevented them from signing the agreement and concluding a settlement with the Iraqi Government. He also prevented them from taking the chance to work democratically inside Iraq. He prevented their natural transition from revolutionary legality to constitutional legality, about which I talked at the beginning of this conference. He, his president, and the United States talk about democracy in Iraq and and its major and important role. Yet, the United States has been trying to shake the democratic experience in Iraq since 1991. Because of hollow and false allegations by Kurds, the Americans came to the north, saying they came to provide comfort. But what has happened in that region since 1991? How many Kurds have been killed since then? How many schools, hospitals, and civilian institutions have been destroyed? Who was responsible for the destruction? Who did the killing in the complete absence of any Iraqi sovereignty? Who did that and under whose protection? Despite all their observers, the situation there is miserable in all aspects of life. There is continued conflict among the rival factions and all the regional powers interfere in that region. Whenever a neighboring country decides to send tanks, artillery, missiles, and military aircraft to attack this or that part of Kurdistan, they can do it without any objection.

But, the great, the generous protector of the Kurds is still here. Here is the irony and the falsification of the whole situation. That's why I affirm that the present situation in the north is an abnormal situation, and the three governorates are semi-occupied by the Americans and their allies, but this is not going to last. This is not going to last. The Kurds are as intelligent as their Arab brothers in this country, and they can draw their conclusions about what is in their interest and what is not, and sooner or later, no matter how long it takes, they will solve this problem and will rejoin their government and reunite with this nation under Saddam Husayn's leadership. I have no doubt about this. [end recording]

The deputy prime minister said Iraq welcomes the call by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to end the unjust embargo from the Iraqi people. He said: In my name and on behalf of the Iraqi Government, I welcome His highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's statements which express a sound Arab stand toward Iraq, and we thank him for this.

In reply to a question on Arab reconciliation and the nature of the relationship with Egypt, Tariq 'Aziz said: We informed the Egyptian Government on more than one occasion of our desire to have normal relations with sister Egypt, irrespective of the differences of opinion. He spoke of the meetings that were held immediately before the U.S. military aggression against Iraq.

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On Iraq's relations with the Gulf countries, Tariq 'Aziz explained that Iraq seeks to establish good relations with these countries based on noninterference in the domestic affairs of any side.

On Iraq's stand on the [Middle East peace] settlement, he said Iraq is not a party to it, whether it is a success or a failure, and whether it is sound or erroneous. Iraq is not concerned with it either from the legal or practical aspect.

On Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council following the decisive results of the referendum and the feverish U.S. attempts which came in the wake of the 30-state aggression, Tariq 'Aziz said:

[Begin 'Aziz recording] From my experience of dealing with the UN Security Council members, I believe that the results of the referendum will sadden the United States and Britain [applause]. Had they really been practicing the slogans they are raising, then the natural thing would be for them to deal objectively with the results of the referendum. But, I do not expect this. I say this from past experience. In November 1993, I went to New York and submitted on behalf of the government of Iraq a document on Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 715 on the supervision of Iraqi weapons. They used to daily insist that we should accept it. They used to tell us: You should accept Resolution 715. Mrs. Albright cursed us because we did not accept this resolution. The British ambassador strongly criticized us because we did not accept the resolution. We accepted it. Most of the UN Security Council members, the French, Russian, PRC, and other Council members congratulated me. They told me that this was a positive step by Iraq on the road to resolving the problems which exist with the UN Security Council and the United Nations. As I was told by sources close to it, the U.S. mission was panicking, as I was told by the people who have direct connections with them [preceding sentence in English]. They used to say that this is an Iraqi ploy. They said: Do not believe Iraq, and Iraq lies. In reality, they were very much disturbed by this step. This was my first experience. Exactly one year later, in 1994, I also went to New York and submitted to Mrs. Madeleine Albright, the then UN Security Council president, documents on the government of Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait and of the borders that were demarcated in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution. Most UN Security Council members were happy with this decision. They told me this is a positive and good step. But the American lady was not happy for receiving these documents from me.

Therefore, I do not expect the United States and Britain to be happy about the results of this referendum. This is because their goal is neither accepting and implementing Security Council resolutions nor implementing democracy and respecting human rights in Iraq. To us, their goal is clear. After 1991, America controlled all oil reserves in the region. Only one large oil reserve in the region remained outside its control. This oil reserve is in Iraq. Iraq is led by President Saddam Husayn. As long as President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government are not ready to put this reserve under the U.S. control, we will be described as dictators, as being against human rights, and oppressors of our people, and they will also look for other bad traits. When we request them to come and take control of this reserve, then we become democrats, reasonable, civilized, people you can work with, why not? [preceding two words in English] [applause]. This is something known. They did it, they did work with us in the past. [preceding sentence in English]

There is a fact which we must underline when we analyze the situation. Iraq's leadership did not assume power in 1991. This leadership has been in power since 1968. This is the same leadership and these are almost the same people, except for some who went away or passed away. Saddam Husayn, 'Izzat Ibrahim, Taha Yasin Ramadan, and Tariq 'Aziz, that is, senior Revolution Command Council members, are the same. I was information minister in 1974. Taha was minister of industry and 'Izzat was minister of interior. This means that they know us. We had visited Washington, London, Paris, and Bonn. We had visited all Western capitals and met with their leaders. I personally had photographs taken with President George Bush, who laughed — I mean he smiled when he received me [laughter]. We are known to them. They worked with us, they dealt with us normally [preceding five words in English] they did business with us — agreements, embassies.

But now, after 1991, that is, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, control of the region was required. The independent country that rejected domination is Iraq. This does not mean we do not deal normally with the United States. We have dealt with it. Until 2 August or 6 August, 1990, we sold 700,000 barrels of oil per day to the U.S. market. More than one quarter of Iraqi oil was sold in U.S. Market. How can they say that Saddam Husayn threatened the oil flow to the industrial world at a time when Saddam Husayn sold, through his institutions, 700,000 barrels to the market at the prevailing prices. Therefore, we did not prevent the flow of oil. The problem is that they want to dominate the oil flow. We sold 700,000 barrels per day of own our free will without being ordered or threatened with weapons. There was a joint interest and benefit. This is unacceptable.

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Under the new world order, what is accepted is the hegemony of one power. When that power tells Saudi Arabia that the Boeing plane is better that the Airbus, Saudi Arabia says: Yes, the Boeing is better that the Airbus. This is what they want. This is also what is required from us. But we argue and say: The Boeing may have good points and the Airbus has other things, but we want to have the Airbus. This is unacceptable. Therefore, they maintain their position toward Iraq. It is not a question of implementing Security Council resolutions, democracy, or human rights. They describe us as a brutal regime because a temporary decision was issued allowing the amputation of the hand of a thief under the difficult circumstances of the blockade. The thief commits two crimes in Iraq.

The thief in Britain, in Egypt, Tunisia, in India commits one crime, here he commits two; an individual crime against the one from whom he steals, and a crime against the society which suffers from the siege. We adopted a decision to amputate the hand of the thief. We are not the only country to decide this. When [former Saudi King]'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Sa'ud came to power in Saudi Arabia, he used to amputate the hands of thieves. They did not say that we have to boycott and condemn Saudi Arabia and isolate it from the international community and besiege it because it amputates the hands of thieves. The double standards in dealing with the world in general, and with us, is clear and exposed. Therefore, the intelligent Iraqi people expressed their position on Sunday rejecting this false way of dealing with them. The radios speak daily about this or that person's concern for the Iraqi people, their concern for the life of the Iraqi people, the rights of the Iraqi people, and the Iraqi people's practicing of their liberties. The Iraqi citizen is daily provoked by the U.S. and Western media and those who follow them. The Iraqi people, who were provoked, said: We despise and reject what you say about us, and we are with our leader and with our country. This is the reality. [end recording]

'Aziz Proposes Iraq-Iran Cooperation Against U.S.

NC1710150495 Paris AFP in English
1450 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17 (AFP) — Iraq said Tuesday [17 October] it was ready to establish normal relations with its neighbor Iran and invited it to form a common front against their enemy the United States.

Iraq is willing to establish "normal and good neighborly ties" with Iran based on non-interference in each others internal affairs, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told Iranian and foreign journalists.

But 'Aziz again denied that Iraq held prisoners from the 1980-1988 war with Iran and urged Tehran to free 20,000 Iraqi prisoners of war. All attempts at normalization have until now been blocked by the prisoner issue.

He said Iraq was ready to speak about normalization with Iran and added that it was still awaiting the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, which has been postponed three times this year.

'Aziz suggested the two neighbors hold talks to counter an aggressive U.S. policy against both Baghdad and Tehran. Washington has adopted a policy of "dual" containment against Iraq and Iran in the last three years.

He also thanked the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, for demanding an end to the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Shaykh Zayid said Monday for the first time that the "end of the sanctions and the suffering of the Iraqi people has also become a duty."

'Aziz said it was a "just" stand.

Baghdad Calls U.S. 'Rodents,' Vows To Overcome Embargo

NC1710115195 Paris AFP in English
1048 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17 (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday [17 October] denounced US government officials as "stinking rodents" and vowed it would overcome UN sanctions following a presidential referendum that it said demonstrated the country's unity.

The United States blasted Sunday's referendum on Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn's presidency as a "sham" saying that participants were denied freedom of choice.

"With its vote, the Iraqi people narrowed the distance separating it from the end of the embargo, and showed the criminal Americans that Saddam Husayn is Iraq and that Iraq is Saddam Husayn," the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said.

"We told the rodents and barbarians from the continent of AIDS and crime that we would only accept Saddam as leader even if they give us the sun and the moon, and even if 20 million Iraqis must know hunger," the official daily said.

"We told the empire of evil and death that our people will not yield," it said. "It's you, representatives of America, stinking rodents (..), who kneel before those who slap you and sell your honor and your word."

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"The embargo will be lifted only by the will of the Iraqis and the will of this people will force the Americans, these enemies of humanity, to capitulate or start a new confrontation which will be more humiliating for them than their defeat in Vietnam," it added.

The Iraqis are like "the world's hardest diamond, which fire makes more brilliant and pressure more resistant," it said. "The Iraqi diamond will soon break the embargo."

Saddam Receives Yasir 'Arafat's Congratulations

JN1810123995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0930 GMT 18 oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn received a cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, congratulating his excellency on winning the post of president of the Republic of Iraq. The cable says:

On the occasion of the absolute confidence which the fraternal Iraqi people have given you in the popular referendum on the post of president, I am pleased to send to you, and through you to the Government of Iraq and the fraternal Iraqi people, on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO, and on my own behalf, the sincerest heartily congratulations. I also take this opportunity to express the feelings of great respect and appreciation for the distinguished pan-Arab role you are playing for the sake of our glorious Arab nation's loftiness and unity and to defend its historic rights to its land and sacred places.

I take this important opportunity to express to your excellency the great pride we take in the brotherly relations between our two fraternal people and our constant eagerness to improve and strengthen these relations for the benefit and glory of our Arab nation and to serve the common interests of our two fraternal people.

Also on this occasion, I wish to voice our absolute support and backing for all the sincere efforts seeking to lift the unfair embargo imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people so that they can continue their kind march and play their pioneering role to serve our Arab nation's objectives and aspirations in sovereignty, progress, and prosperity.

I reaffirm to your excellency our warm heartily congratulations. I wish you good health and happiness and the fraternal Iraqi people continued progress and prosperity.

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Rabin: No Plans for Large Operation in Lebanon

TA1710185495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Oct 95

['Imanu'el Rosen video-report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not carry out an extensive operation in Lebanon. This was made clear at today's cabinet session by the prime minister and the chief of staff. The IDF representatives explained that they do not have sufficient information about Hizballah targets. Yitzhaq Rabin attacked Syria's involvement in Hizballah activity in Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Addressing the cabinet today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq made it clear that there is nothing new in Lebanon.

[Rabin] So, what is new?

[Rosen] Nine dead.

[Rabin] Nine dead, I know, but there were 650 dead in three years of war in Lebanon. Did that solve the problem? Was Lebanese terror eliminated? The real issue is our endurance in the face of terror, even if we know that the matters cannot be resolved in one fell swoop. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Yosi Beilin suggested that the concept of the security zone be reexamined. Shulamit Aloni suggested that Israel pull out unilaterally. Moshe Shahal and Shim'on Shetrit demand that the IDF carry out a wide-ranging operation. Rabin and Shahaq, however, rejected this latter demand. We will only operate, they said, against pinpointed targets and in a way that will not be followed by the firing of katyushas at the Galilee. [passage omitted]

The ministers were embarrassed. They allowed the IDF free reign in fighting Hizballah, but heard the top military brass tell them that, at this time, there are no clear targets nor plans for such an operation. [end recording]

Rabin: Syria Talks Not To Hinder IDF in Lebanon

TA1710123995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, coming out of the Prime Minister's Office following a special cabinet session, said there has not been any change in the scope of activity in Lebanon. He directed considerable criticism at Syria.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We have operated and will continue to operate, should there be a need, anywhere in Lebanon. Our considerations for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in all of Lebanon are not restricted by political considerations of negotiations with Syria. The considerations of hitting targets in all of Lebanon are practical defense considerations and are not influenced in any way by the existence or lack of existence of negotiations with Syria. Syria backs Hizballah terrorists politically and publicly and permits the crossing of arms, people, and money through its lines. Recently, we have also been witnessing the Islamic Jihad, headed by Fathi al-Shaqaqi — which is located in Damascus — enjoying freedom of action with Syrian assistance. Several Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders are located in Syria and enjoy Syrian patronage for terrorist attacks against us.

Syria apparently believes that by encouraging terrorist attacks it will pressure us in peace negotiations. It is making a grave mistake since the contrary is true: The fact that Syria behaves that way only makes it harder to negotiate with it.

[Rosen] Can it be said that the understandings reached after Operation Accountability still exist, or that Hizballah is violating them?

[Rabin] I have one thing to say: For over three months — since 9 July 1995 — we have made sure that we have upheld the understandings, and there has not been any katyusha shelling of the Galilee. The IDF and I thought it was vitally important that during the school holidays and when the people of Israel, including Galilee residents, were observing their holidays they could host visitors and tourists without disturbance, thanks to the IDF's activities. The fact is that during that period the understandings were upheld by both sides. [end recording]

Hizballah Seen Acting at Iranian, Syrian Behest

TA1710130595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today heard a report by Major General Moshe Ya'alon, head of the Intelligence Branch, who had harsh things to say about Hizballah activity. Yo'el Nir reports from the Knesset:

[Nir] The meeting has not yet ended and we are basing ourselves on information provided by committee members who left the meeting. Gen. Ya'alon said Hizballah is operating under an Iranian concept. In the first stage, the organization wants to push Israel out of south Lebanon back to the international border. In the

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second stage, its aim is Jerusalem. Gen. Ya'alon also said that organization, training, preparations for actions, and funding all come from Iran. The inspiration for the activities, however, is Syrian. He said Hizballah does not carry out any action without Syrian knowledge. It has Syrian support and backing in order to put pressure on Israel.

Another issue raised in the general's report were the two incidents in south Lebanon. He said the chief of staff asked him to give the report. He said the debriefing has not yet ended, but that it is the not the first time we have had casualties because of our mistakes rather than because of enemy successes. Committee member Ra'anan Kohen mentioned the word blunder, but he was silenced by colleagues. The general said the debriefing so far has shown that proper procedures were not thoroughly followed. In the first incident, in which three soldiers were killed, the vehicles were traveling too close to each other. In the second, in which six soldiers were killed, the vehicle — an armored personnel carrier — did not have adequate defenses while moving along a dirt path before daybreak.

The general agreed with the announcement issued following the cabinet meeting that Syria does not prevent Hizballah activity and might even welcome it. But he went further, saying there is Syrian support and backing for Hizballah activity in order to exert pressure on Israel. Hizballah does not act without Syria's knowledge, he said.

Ministers Comment on Military Action in Lebanon

TA1710120795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the prime minister's bureau following the cabinet meeting — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] One of the ministers whose remarks on the need for more aggressive action in Lebanon stood out at today's cabinet meeting was Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] I think a strong reaction is needed, and they are expecting one. I think they are waiting to see how Israel will react. In this case, the absence of reaction will invite an escalation in Hizballah activity. That is why I think a strong reaction, proportionate to the blow we have been dealt, is called for.

[Raz] Yet the government has not endorsed your recommendation, and its policy remains unchanged.

[Shahal] No recommendation was put to the vote. The decisions were drafted jointly by all the ministers. I think today's discussion was necessary if we are to learn the appropriate lessons and make recommendations as warranted. We will wait and see how the situation unfolds. I do not think anything operational was planned for today. In my opinion, the gist of the views voiced today was that we should react in an appropriate manner.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 17 October carries an interview with Minister Ya'aqov Tzur by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, recorded following the cabinet meeting, in which Tzur says: "We must discover Hizballah's vulnerable spots. We cannot be constantly on the defensive in this battle, and we will therefore have to locate the places, areas, and methods with which to hurt Hizballah." Asked whether "such action will not cause Israel again to become embroiled in Lebanon," Tzur adds: "As I said, we must do so while maintaining the necessary balance and making sure that we do not sink in the Lebanese quagmire and provoke katyushas at our northern towns. I am positive that appropriate methods against Hizballah will be found."

[Rosen adds that after the meeting, "Minister Shulamit Aloni voiced her satisfaction with the cabinet decisions, and her satisfaction means that the IDF will continue to operate within the accepted parameters, that no major decision on an operation in Lebanon was endorsed."]

Female Detainees To Be Freed; Prisoner Deported

TA1810114295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Court of Justice was today informed that Israel will release 10 Palestinian female detainees who are awaiting trial in accordance to the commitments made in the Declaration of Principles. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that this was stated in an appeal submitted by Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman's Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, which demanded the release of the female detainees and the four female prisoners convicted of murder. As for the female prisoners, a representative of the state told the High Court of Justice that the issue is being discussed by a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee which is monitoring the implementation of the agreement.

A senior legal source said that the release of female terrorist Lami'a Ma'ruf is contingent on a pardon by the commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command. The source noted that Ma'ruf could not be deported to Brazil without first being granted a pardon. The senior legal source told our correspondent Mira Amsalem that the military commander could make Ma'ruf's release contingent on her being deported from Israel; however, he must first pardon her in any case.

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General: PA-Hamas Accord To Halt 'Terror'

TA1810095095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel plans to deport Palestinian female prisoner Lami'a Ma'ruf, a Brazilian citizen, who was involved in the murder of soldier David Manus in 1984 and was not pardoned by Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, a senior political source confirmed yesterday. The source added that the deportation depends on Ma'ruf's agreement and Brazil's assent to take her in. The deportation of the prisoner does not require a pardon and the legalities of the matter are now being examined.

The expulsion was apparently agreed on in a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week. 'Arafat met in Brazil yesterday with Ma'ruf's family and told them that she will be released 22 October. He visited Brazil on his way to the summit of nonaligned states in Colombia.

The PA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have reached an interim agreement according to which Hamas will halt its terrorist activities against Israel from the autonomy and from Israeli soil, Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, head of the Intelligence Branch, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Gen. Ya'alon noted that Hamas interprets the agreement to mean a total halt to all attacks against Israel.

The general added that simultaneously PA-Hamas negotiations are under way on training Hamas activists for political activity and on totally liquidating the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. In response to a query, Gen. Ya'alon said that similar discussions are not yet under way between the PA and the Islamic Jihad, which is closely following the negotiations with Hamas.

Israel suggested to the Palestinians to withdraw the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Hebron for two days during the elections in the town, and this will be discussed by a special committee. 'Arafat announced his intention to hold the elections in the territories in January even before the IDF pulls out of most of Hebron.

The Likud Knesset faction will hold an emergency meeting to discuss the IDF's withdrawal from the West Bank population centers. The Likud claims that the withdrawal is being carried out without the IDF's and the defense establishment's readiness to ensure the personal security of the residents of the divide line. Likud faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said the Likud accuses the government of being a prisoner of its erroneous political-security concept and that because of the government's blindness, obstinacy, and weakness, it will soon be looking for excuses for its foul-ups.

Permission Sought To Bid on U.S. Satellite Launches

TA1710104295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 95 p A6

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will ask the U.S. Administration to lift the obstacles preventing the IAI [Israel Aircraft Industries] from taking part in tenders for the launching of satellites in the United States. The issue will be raised at the strategic cooperation talks which start today in Washington.

Israel claims that the administration has failed to uphold its promise to allow Israeli companies to supply equipment and technology for the launching of civilian satellites inside the United States. For its part, the United States asserts that Israel has misinterpreted the permit given to participate in the tenders.

The IAI is proposing to sell the Americans the Shavit missile, which was used to launch the Israeli satellites of the Ofeq line. The IAI is trying to participate in the satellite-launching tenders in partnership with the American concern TRW; according to defense establishment sources, however, the plan has encountered difficulties due to the conditions set for the tenders by the U.S. Government.

President Bill Clinton promised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in January 1994 that Israeli companies would be able to export civilian-satellite launching technology and equipment to the United States, but this decision has had no practical results so far.

Participating in the satellite tenders is important for Israel in order to maintain a national strategic infrastructure, the future of which is unclear due to budgetary constraints.

The strategic talks scheduled to open today will take place in two separate working groups. One committee will discuss military aid to Israel while the other will deal with political and defense-related cooperation. The Israeli team, headed by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, will give the Americans a detailed review of the costs involved in implementing the agreements with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Jordan.

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During the discussions on cooperation, both sides will exchange situation assessments on Iran, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf. Professor 'Imanu'el Sivan, a Middle East expert, who joined the Israeli team as a guest delegate, will lecture on the stability of regimes in the Middle East. The Americans will brief the Israelis on the new information they received on Iraq's nonconventional weapons programs following the defection of Husayn Kamil.

During the talks, discussions will also be held in the framework of subcommittees on military cooperation, technology transfer, and arms control. Both sides will discuss the deadlock at the multilateral talks on arms control, which is the result of differences between Egypt and Israel. The convening of the multilateral talks plenum has already been put off several times, and Israel has requested a deferral until January 1996 because of problems with the talks' timetable. The committee on technology transfer will continue to discuss U.S. claims that Israel supplied China with military technology received from the United States.

Harish: No Fear of U.S.-PA Trade Agreement

TA1710155195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish said today that Israel is not afraid that U.S. products will be smuggled into its territory if the United States signs a free trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA], because Israel has reached a customs arrangement with the PA. Our economic correspondent Mikha'el Friedman reports that Minister Harish made the remarks in a meeting with U.S. trade envoy Mickey Kantor.

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Foreign Minister on Israel, Regional Issues

MM1810114495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] You made a reference in Jordan's speech at the General Assembly to "a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital." Does that not conflict with the assurances offered to Jordan to the effect that it would have a role vis-a-vis the future of Jerusalem?

[Al-Kabariti] Actually the Jordanian position on Jerusalem is clear and open, namely that Jordan considers that Arab Jerusalem is subject to Resolution 242, the question of Arab sovereignty over it is settled, and that this issue can be settled through the final phase negotiations. When we refer to the Washington declaration and its reference to the Jordanian role in Jerusalem we would like to focus on the issue of religious jurisdiction and supervision over holy sites in Jerusalem.

Jordanian concerns resulted from the big vacuum represented in the failure to include Jerusalem in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and deferring it until the final phase negotiations. We had a feeling that Jordan's abandonment of its duties and responsibilities of looking after and protecting holy sites in Jerusalem would mean their control by the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs. We said that, if the Palestinian National Authority manages to extend its authority over Jerusalem, there would be no disagreement over the identity of the quarter to supervise religious sites in Jerusalem.

[Matar] That is from the religious angle. But we continue to experience at the political level the rejection of the peace with Israel by numerous sections of the Arab people. Do you believe that the Arab people agree to Israel being part of the region? That is, for the peace to be conducted at the people's, not just the political, level?

[Al-Kabariti] Accusations vis-a-vis dealing with Israel and peace with Israel have been made by the media. They linked the official stands of the states that concluded peace treaties with Israel to the stands of the Israeli Government with which the treaties were concluded. We say that anyone who accuses these states of dealing with Israel is actually dealing with the Israeli parties opposed to peace.

Opposing peace, rejecting normalization, and the issue of incorporating [Israel] into the region are issues not confined to the Arab scene only. There is a school calling for the same thing on the Israeli scene.

[Matar] The issue of accommodating Israel as part of the region cannot be overlooked in political agreements. And those who are opposed to dealings with Israel are probably not opposed to a peaceful solution at the political level.

[Al-Kabariti] We should differentiate between principled positions and political positions. I would understand it if the rejection of the dealings and coexistence with Israel is based on principled positions. The same applies to some religious political movements in both the Arab world and the State of Israel. There are principled positions rejecting the coexistence idea on both the Arab and Israeli scenes. As for the political positions, those rejecting dealings with Israel must offer an alternative.

[Matar] What is intended here is not the political positions but, rather, the refusal of sectors in Jordan, such as some unions, to receive the Israeli ambassador. This reflects a psychological atmosphere among the Arab people. Do you believe that this phase will be transcended?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that the issue of Arab-Israeli relations can be developed and advanced. It can also be halted or delayed. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a bitter conflict that has continued for many years. It will take time to transcend this phase and move to a new phase based on cooperation and tranquillity. What is happening now is part of the labor process that will result — with the passage of time — in accepting the political realities and dealing with them as a reality.

[Matar] There is a call for a meeting of Arab ministers to consider the possibility of lifting the Arab boycott of Israel. Do you believe that the time has come for such a position?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that that issue should be discussed at the Arab League level. The league should raise it at its first meeting to enable all Arab participants to express their views on the issue. That is, if there is a desire for a collective position on it. If the Arab League has no desire to raise and deal with the issue, I believe that the states then have the sovereign right to decided where their interests lie and how to secure these interests.

[Matar] But do you think it is right for some states to lift the boycott before the Arab League discusses it.

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that that is a sovereign matter, and the states are entitled to decide for themselves what to do in this connection.

[Matar] Does your position not weaken the Syrian and Lebanese negotiation position?

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[Al-Kabariti] I feel that the strategic peace option necessarily means accepting both the requirements and outcome of peace. The requirements of peace are cooperation and dealings at the political and economic level.

[Matar] But that weakens the negotiating positions of both Syria and Lebanon, according to the two states?

[Al-Kabariti] The Syrian negotiating position relies and is based on international legitimacy, namely Resolution 242 based on the "land-for-peace" principle and the "impermissibility of occupying land by force." What we see and follow now with regard to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations concerns the technical issues relating to security arrangements. I believe that Israeli public opinion is influential and plays a fundamental role in Israeli decisionmaking. When it senses the importance of peace in terms of the Arab parties' seriousness in accepting it not only at the national level but at the Arab level in general, it will help Israeli decisionmakers to make the difficult decisions to reach agreements with Syria and Lebanon.

Thus I believe that the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian peace agreements, in addition to some Arab-Israeli relations, are bound to assure Israeli public opinion, which can exert pressure on Israeli decisionmakers to work to reach peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon.

[Matar] Do you believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's chances of success will have any impact vis-a-vis Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and the Palestinian-Israeli agreements?

[Al-Kabariti] Some people believe that it was the Likud and Begin that initiated the peace process with Egypt through the Camp David accords, hence they do not differentiate between the Labor Party and the Likud in this connection. The main difference is that President al-Sadat made his historic initiative by visiting Jerusalem, hence creating an adequate atmosphere among Israeli public opinion through which he was able to conclude the accords even though the Likud was in power.

[Matar] Let us move on to Iraq. Why has Jordan still not closed its border with Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] We do not believe that there is a need to close the border with Iraq. Jordan has never believed in the closure policy. It has always called for separating political relations from economic and interpeople relations among the Arab states. On that basis we insist on continuing the economic and interpeople relations between Iraq and Jordan.

[Matar] Are there Jordanian conditions for severing relations?

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, no Arab or foreign quarter has asked us to sever diplomatic and economic relations with Iraq as long as these economic relations are within the framework of what is allowed under the Security Council resolutions. This is what we are keen to implement, because trade between our two countries is within the limits allowed by the Security Council.

I do not believe that severing Jordanian-Iraqi relations would serve Jordan's aims as regards its relations with the Iraqi people and its interests in ending their suffering and enabling them to exercise their legitimate rights.

[Matar] The political conditions set say that the sanctions will continue while Saddam Husayn remains in power. There are numerous diplomatic interpretation of this. Do you not believe that one of the measures that would help to end the suffering is to contribute to the toppling of the regime?

[Al-Kabariti] Our position on that issue is very clear. We urge Iraq to comply with all the resolutions of international legitimacy and to resolve the issue concerning the Kuwaiti missing persons and hostages. We praised the Iraqi initiatives represented in Iraq's recognition of the Kuwaiti border and Kuwait's sovereignty over its territory within the international borders. This is in addition to Iraq's compliance with the decisions concerning the dismantling of the mass-destruction weapons. Furthermore, we expressed our adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, the Declaration of Human Rights. We are committed to the Iraqi people's right to express their opinion and to exercise their various rights. We are also committed to Iraq's territorial integrity and the Iraqi people's unity and safety.

The threat of which we speak on every occasion is that which could result from the continuation of this suffering, which could lead to the possible fragmentation of Iraq, whether geographically or with regard to the people.

[Matar] Does the continuation of the regime in Iraq have any effect on that?

[Al-Kabariti] We believe that that is the Iraqi people's business. Thus we believe that the Iraqi people should decide for themselves what they want and be given the opportunity to achieve their aims in order to enable Iraq to resume its natural role in the region.

[Matar] Has the referendum a role in that matter?

[Al-Kabariti] I have no details about the nature of that referendum.

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[Matar] The trend in the seventies was to talk about partitioning Lebanon. The trend now is to talk about partitioning Iraq. Do you believe that some people really want to do that?

[Al-Kabariti] There are historic and foreign ambitions regarding Iraq's territory. I also believe that there are nationalist ambitions inside Iraq — ambitions of non-Arab nationalities inside Iraq. I also believe that there are ethnic and sectarian forces inside Iraq which could pose a real threat vis-a-vis the possibility of Iraq's fragmentation on a nationalist, ethnic, and sectarian basis.

[Matar] Some people believe that continuing to protect the Kurds in the north and creating a special economic situation there will lead to the partitioning of Iraq. Do you believe that the powers that protected the Kurds in the north will allow the Kurds' separation and Iraq's fragmentation?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not know the intentions of the states that provided the protection and support for Kurdish demands. However the slogan of a Kurdish state has been raised for some time. This affects a number of states in the region, not just Iraq.

[Matar] Should one fear Iran's possible intervention to contain [ihtiwa'] southern Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] We believe that sensitivities and imbalances emerged as a result of claims that some sects and ethnic groups are denied their basic rights in Iraq. Thus we hope that everyone in Iraq — regardless of race and sect — will feel that he belongs to one Iraq, one Iraq within the Arab sovereignty over it.

[Matar] Are there real Iranian designs on Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] We feel that the only way for the region's states, especially the Gulf states, to deal with one another is through respect for the states' sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. We hope that the issue of the islands in the United Arab Emirates will not become the background to every mention of the Iranian role in the region.

[Matar] Has the Husayn Kamil storm ended?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan did not make the storm. It was made by the media. It is the media services which can determine when this storm can be escalated, intensified, or eliminated.

[Matar] Have the fears over Jordanian ambitions regarding Iraq been eliminated?

[Al-Kabariti] There are no Jordanian ambitions regarding Iraq. We are not a state waging wars against others. It is fighting for the sake of winning others' trust. Husayn Kamil does not differ in his political position from several Iraqi political symbols who have defected to some Arab capitals, using them as a base from which to express their political views.

Cabinet Approves Trade Deal With Israel

JN1710230995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report, from "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet approved this evening the trade deal with Israel reached under the peace treaty between the two countries.

The cabinet authorized Trade and Industry Minister 'Ali Abu-al- Raghib to sign the agreement with the Israeli Government.

During the session, the cabinet decided on one draft law incorporating tariffs and taxes on imported and exported goods.

Cabinet ministers will set up a committee comprising members from the public and private sectors that will study the plots [word indistinct] law in the country.

Minister on Iraq, Summit, Paper's Allegations

JN1710192395 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 17-23 Oct 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by the local affairs editor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister, has stated that Jordan has not invited Iraq to take part in the Amman Economic summit conference so as not to disturb the general atmosphere. He pointed out that the Syrians and Lebanese have been invited, but that they have not yet responded. He asserted that nobody has set any conditions for attending the conference.

In a statement to be published this month by the ISLAMIC ACTION magazine, mouthpiece of the Islamic Action Front, al-Rawabidah said that there was disagreement among the ministers over the issue, and that "disagreement within the Council of Ministers is healthy, will enhance our opinion, and will lead us to the right decision. The ministers are not copies of one another. What I mean is a difference in opinion, but not over essentials. Trends within the Council of Ministers are one.

Responding to a question on disagreement among the ministers over the issue of Husayn Kamil, he said: "Yes, we disagreed but we tackled it in a very successful way. The man came to his majesty the king, who allowed him

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to stay. So, he is not a political refugee because he did not ask for political asylum." [passage omitted]

Regarding a report by AL-HAYAH newspaper correspondent, Salamah Ni'mat, who quoted a responsible government source as saying that Jordanian officials have received money from Iraq, and why the government did not deny that, al-Rawabidah said: "The duty of the government and the deputies is to fight financial corruption, and I believe that the court is the party that should investigate the issue. Resorting to the court is the core of democracy. I do not like administrative detention. I support the public prosecutor's move, but we have not asked for it. Any rumor about the government's connection with the issue is unfounded.

We respect Salamah Ni'mat as a person. He has divulged information, and he has to disclose the source to the court, as well as the persons who have received money. We will not allow any country to interfere in our domestic affairs, even though that country is very dear and fraternal. Salamah Ni'mat accused journalists, deputies, and ministers, and every one should shoulder his responsibility. We have acted in an honorable, clean, and legal manner."

Concerning reports that his majesty the king was upset by the way the government handled the issue, he said: "I cannot speak for his majesty the king. I neither deny nor confirm this. The issue is still with the court, and the government will not interfere. But we have to resolve the issue." [passage omitted]

Prince: Ready To Host Arab-Iranian Dialogue

JN1710095995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on Monday [16 October] discussed with a senior Iranian official, Ahmad Haj Hoseini [name as published], the prospects of holding Arab-Iranian seminars in 1996 on topics of mutual concern in light of regional developments.

The Crown Prince and Mr. Hoseini also reviewed the nature of topics to be tackled at cultural meetings planned by Iranian and Arab intellectuals.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan was ready to host meetings and seminars that are designed to build bridges of cooperation among Muslim nations and remove differences in views among them.

Mr. Hoseini, who attended a seminar organised by the centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, is the general director of the Institute for International and Political Studies at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Hoseini also met officials from the Arab Thought Forum to discuss prospects for holding Arab-Iranian meetings and the topics to be discussed, including regional security and outstanding issues between Iran and the Arab World.

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Ministers 'Regret' U.S. Stance on Israeli Deaths

NC1710151295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In reaction to the recent U.S. stance of holding the Lebanese Government and people responsible for the events in southern Lebanon, Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs; 'Abd-al-Rahim Murad, minister of vocation and technical education; and Deputy Sami al-Khatib, head of the Parliamentary Defense and Security Committee have denounced this U.S. stance and called for continued resistance until the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces.

Minister Sinyurah expressed regret at the U.S. remarks and called on the U.S. Administration to distinguish between the victim and the executioner. He indicated that the whole world, including the United States, knows that Israel is an aggressor that refuses to implement UN resolutions.

Minister Murad also regretted the U.S. remarks despite its claim of neutrality. He urged the U.S. Administration to be more just, accurate, and responsible. He said that the resistance in the south and the western al-Biqa' is a legitimate, international, religious, and moral right. The resistance will continue until we liberate all our occupied land.

Deputy Sami al-Khatib expressed surprise at the U.S. stance, saying the United States is supposed to know that we are the victims, that our land is occupied, and that the Israeli soldiers were killed on our national soil. They were not killed in Nahariyya or Haifa but in Tallat Khazin, which is situated on Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Birri Blames U.S. for Situation in South

NC1710155095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Sa'd Ilyas from the Chamber of Deputies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first day of the Chamber of Deputies' ordinary session was devoted to a review of the parliamentary, political, and southern security situation in this the last year of the Chamber of Deputies term, to cite Speaker Nabih Birri. The session also elected committee members, heads, and rapporteurs as well as members of the National Media Council. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri chaired the session, which was attended by more than 100 deputies and by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr and 14 ministers.

Speaker Birri opened the session with a political speech in which he enumerated the achievements of the legislative branch since the current Chamber was elected. He noted that the Chamber held 145 legislative meetings during which it approved 296 laws.

Discussing the situation in the south, Birri said the south will remain the top Lebanese priority. He urged focusing our attention on the developments in the south because the winds of danger are blowing from there, where the occupation exists. What is taking place in the south, he said, is a prelude to what will happen when pressure on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks is increased. He added: We must not close our eyes to the developments in the south, especially after hearing the U.S. position today, a position that holds the victim — the Lebanese people and state — responsible for what is taking place in the south. Reacting to this U.S. position, Birri said in the name of the Chamber of Deputies that what happened and is happening in the south is the responsibility of the United States.

In his speech, Birri touched on the presidential election, stressing the independence of the Chamber of Deputies:

[Begin Birri recording] I can once again claim that the Chamber of Deputies is a sovereign entity, even though its decision making is governed by national and pan-Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Various parties have portrayed Syria's position on the presidential election and other issues as not concerned about Lebanon, its national accord, its civil peace, its unity, and its national dignity. This is an attempt to distort Syria's position and deny its sacrifices for Lebanon. [end recording]

Birri stressed that Syria is concerned about the political identity of the Lebanese system, because this system is in geographic and human proximity to it. He said attempts to discredit Syria's position on Lebanese issues and attempts to discredit the Chamber of Deputies will not succeed. He added: I tell the people of Lebanon that Syria will not act like a colonial power in Lebanon. It is not an occupying power building a civil administration in disguise. It is a sincere brother that backs Lebanon. A strong Lebanon will be a support for Syria, but a Lebanon lacking the factors for internal confidence — represented by democracy and freedom — and lacking a strong Army would be a burden for Syria.

Birri concluded his statement by stressing that the tenure of the Chamber of Deputies will not be extended or cut short, and that the elections will be held as scheduled. [passage omitted]

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Parliamentarian on Balance of Forces in South

NC1810092895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Sami al-Khatib, head of the Parliament's Defense and Security Committee, in Beirut, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-al-Majd] What are the latest developments in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Khatib] It is common knowledge that the balance of forces between Lebanon and Israel is in the latter's favor. It is also common knowledge that Lebanon's military force is not a match for Israel's military force, especially their air force. However, we in Lebanon—after the recent resistance operations and after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's threats—are fully prepared to repulse any aggression and to defend national territory and dignity.

Undoubtedly, the aggressor can enter Lebanon. However, such an incursion will not be a picnic as in the past. We do not want to threaten anyone. We are fully aware of the balance of forces but we have rights. We have stated for the umpteenth time that we adhere to the peace process according to the land-for-peace formula on the basis of which we participated in the Madrid peace talks four years ago. We still say that we are prepared to adhere to all the obligations of peace, which include halting all military operations from Lebanon against the Israeli entity. But Israel does not want this process; it wants to intimidate Syria and Lebanon and make them give in. Israel's political objectives are known. It wants peace tailored to its needs. This is unacceptable as long as there is occupied Lebanese territory.

We tell the whole international community and all our friends in the world: These Israeli soldiers were not killed in Nahariyya or Haifa. They were killed on Lebanese territory. They were killed in Khallat Khazin, which is situated in Israeli-occupied Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the role of the full partner [in the peace process], namely the United States?

[Al-Khatib] This is our main complaint. Lebanon is the victim. The United States holds Lebanon [responsible]. Lebanon depends on the United States as a sincere friend. Lebanon depends on the United States in the international community and in international affairs. We prize the fact that there is reliable leadership in the United States. Therefore, we are astonished that the Lebanese people and Government are being held responsible for the events in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Conflict, 'Acts of Aggression' Continue in South

Israelis Shell Area

NC1710181095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of their continued acts of aggression against southern villages and towns, the Israeli occupation forces today advanced from their positions in 'Ali al-Tahir to the periphery of Qasr Ghandur in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and totally demolished the deserted three-story house of citizen 'Abdallah Irtayd. Commenting on this act, Deputy 'Imad Jabir called on the government to file a complaint with the UN Security Council.

In another development, enemy artillery shelled the vicinities of the towns of Haddatha, Haris, and Sribbin, while a three-armored-vehicles unit raked with machine-gun fire the areas of al-Hasbani, Kawkaba, Suq al-Khazin, and Burghuz. The unit established a roadblock along al-Hasbani road and held some 20 civilian cars for one hour.

Meanwhile, the resistance mourned a martyr killed in the clash with the enemy in the western al-Biqa' on Saturday [14 October]. He is Khadr Husayn 'Ubayd. A resistance statement pledged to continue jihad until the liberation of the land.

Further on Shelling, Overflights

NC1810074795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Israeli] warplanes and helicopters conducted intense flights over the south. The occupation artillery shelled the liberated areas until early this morning. The bombardment coincided with the occupation forces' machine-gun fire directed at the areas around their positions.

Hizballah Vows Heavier Attacks in South

NC1710173895 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct 17 (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizballah vowed Tuesday [17 October] to inflict even heavier losses on Israeli troops in south Lebanon and said Washington would bear full responsibility for any attacks "on our people."

Hizballah issued the warning after the Israeli government decided to hit hard at the Moslem fundamentalist guerrillas who killed nine Jewish soldiers in four days.

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"The (Israeli) enemy knows very well that we continue to uphold our right and our duty to defend our people by all means at our disposal," a statement released in Beirut said.

"Any adventure or attack will force the enemy to pay a huge price. The losses of these past days were only a taste of what we are capable of," Hizballah added.

It blasted U.S. support of Israel and said: "Washington should bare full responsibility for any Israeli attack on our people."

"Blaming the Lebanese people and government and Syria for what happened and defending the right of Israeli troops to carry out attacks on the pretext of self-defence is flagrant support of the enemy," Hizballah said.

A U.S. State Department spokesman on Monday said Washington would press Syria to use its influence on Hizballah to halt attacks.

"Syria does not control the Hizballah but clearly has the capability to influence," the spokesman said. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus was to deliver a message to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Hizballah said such U.S. statements only served to strengthen its resolve to fight Israel's occupation.

The Israeli government pledged at an emergency cabinet Tuesday to hit hard at Hizballah but avoid a military escalation in south Lebanon, where some 1,000 Israeli troops occupy a border strip.

A government statement said the Israeli Army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia would be given a greater margin of maneuver to hit back.

Hizballah guerrillas killed six Israeli soldiers in a bomb attack Sunday in the security zone, four days after three others died in an ambush in the same area.

Hizballah Blames U.S. for Israeli Attacks

NC1710180995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to official U.S. statements regarding recent resistance operations, Hizballah has issued a statement in which it says that Washington is strongly supporting the Zionist occupation of the south and Western al-Biqa' and refusing to apply any kind of pressure to end this occupation. The statement says that blaming the Lebanese people, the Lebanese Government, and Syria for what happened and defending the right of the occupation soldiers to launch attacks on the pretext of self-defense represent the most sophisticated cover for aggression and encourage a continuation of the policy of aggression with unconditional U.S. protection.

[In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 17 October adds: "Hizballah threatened Israel that it will inflict greater losses on its forces in the south, and it held the United States fully responsible for any new Israeli aggression that harms civilians."]

Network Counterfeiting U.S. Dollars Uncovered

NC1710175795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 17 Oct (MENA)—Lebanese security authorities have uncovered a new network making counterfeit U.S. dollars. The discovery is part of a sweeping government campaign to combat the spreading business of forging U.S. and European currencies, which is mostly concentrated in eastern al-Biqa' region.

Lebanese security sources have stated that five members of the network were arrested while the remaining members remain at large and are being pursued inside and outside Lebanese territory. The same sources noted that members of this network had secretly imported advanced printers and succeeded in forging $20 bills and circulating them on Lebanese, Arab, and African markets. The quantity of counterfeit dollars is estimated to be $50 million.

The same sources added that the arrested members, who come from the villages of Brital and Hawr Ta'la in al-Biqa', which are close to Ba'labakk, have been referred to the Jabal Lubnan public prosecutor for questioning.

Some U.S. reports have stated that billions of counterfeit dollars have flooded the American and European financial markets. The U.S. authorities expressed readiness to cooperate with a number of Middle Eastern countries to uncover the networks forging these dollars.

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Al-Shihabi Interviewed on War Anniversary

JN1710121195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 5

[Interview with Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent on the "22d anniversary of the October War"; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [TISHRIN] The October war of liberation produced several results on both the military and political levels. The question is: Are these results still valid now despite the Israeli schemes against them?

[Al-Shihabi] Following the 1967 setback, the world community exerted major efforts to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. These efforts, however, were foiled because of Israeli intransigence. Israel's covetousness of Arab territory and its expansionism became very clear.

Resolution 242 could have achieved an acceptable settlement to the Middle East problem and established the pillars of a just peace in the region. However, Israel obstructed the settlement and, with the support of imperialist powers, that resolution was frozen. Despite that, the Arabs continued to warn against the dangers of the situation and urged the world community to shoulder its responsibility toward world peace. [passage omitted]

[TISHRIN] It has been said that the October war laid strong foundations for a just and honorable peace. What are these foundations and what progress has been achieved in the march of that peace?

[Al-Shihabi] Twenty two years after the October war of liberation, this anniversary comes in the midst of a host of world developments, particularly after the birth of the new world order, which people say they want to build on the values of justice, security, freedom, and peace. Here, the meanings of the October defensive war are confirmed in its legitimate defense of the Arab nation's present and future.

Syria believes in the argument that war for the sake of peace is like seeking to achieve peace to prevent aggressive wars, provided the appropriate arrangements are set to face the challenges.

I believe that military battles need military strength and that negotiations inside the negotiation room require political strength. There is no political strength without military strength to back, protect, and defend it because battles and negotiations constitute a conflict of wills.

Israel sits with the Arabs on the negotiations table only on its own terms. It also does not sign agreements unless its phased objectives are achieved. This is what happened in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and in the agreement which Jordan signed recently with Israel.

True, there is a partial collapse in Arab conditions, but time, coordination, solidarity, the building of strength, and refusing to offer concessions will strengthen the Arab position in the negotiations. On the opposite side, the Israeli negotiating position is still being shaped up. It has not yet completed its necessary requirements and it is dependent on the United States.

As for specifying the parties that can influence the establishment of peace in the region, the current circumstances and international developments have terminated the role of certain parties and changed the roles of others.

The Soviet role ended at a very important stage. Then, the U.S. role grew and became very important, regardless of U.S. achievements now or in the future. This is in view of the circumstances that enabled this U.S. role to make many achievements.

In the current stage and thanks to its weight, role, and power, Syria's influence on the peace process became stronger. There could be no war or peace without Syria. The Syrian Arab policy has a clear and firm message based on international legitimacy, the right of people to self-determination, and the sacred right to defense of existence and land. This right is sanctioned by all religions and all laws. Therefore, Syria called for adopting Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, whose essence is the exchange of land for a just and comprehensive peace.

Syria also calls for overcoming narrow regional objectives to achieve peace of the brave in accordance with Syria's firm principles. Syria advocates relentless efforts to restore Arab solidarity and to establish friendly relations of cooperation with other countries that show understanding of our crucial causes.

The United States and some other European and friendly countries are working for peace in the region, thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad's efforts, firm position, and the fact that he did not abandon rights under all circumstances. We will continue our efforts on the two levels defined by leader al-Asad. First, we will increase and modernize our power politically, militarily, and morally. We will also wage a battle for peace, where there will be no retreat, no relinquishment, and no surrender. This is because if a just peace prevails, then we believe it will continue and will not be affected by any political or economic upheavals, since it is based on justice.

However, if Israel continues to weasel out of the commitments it made on the Syrian-Israeli track, then this

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means that Israel's extortionist demands that contradict our national security are rejected. This is because occupation by force is rejected in principle, the policy of threats is over, and the efforts of blackmail will not do Israel any good. All efforts will be for nothing if Israel pursues its intransigent policy. Syria, however, will continue its efforts on all levels to achieve peace and will undertake its duties, as President al-Asad said: "The one who knows how to defend his country in wartime also knows how to defend his country in peacetime."

A responsible Arab reply to Israel's position lies in opening a serious dialogue to check Arab differences and to find ways to bolster political, economic, and military Arab capabilities. This also requires stopping the race to catch the Israeli peace train and supporting the Syrian-Lebanese stand toward the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister: History 'Will Have No Mercy'

MM1810110695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syrian Defense Minister Accuses Palestinians and Jordan of Abandoning Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Syrian Defense Minister General 'Imad Talas has said that Syria continues to work within the framework of the October spirit (a reference to October 1973) in order to continue to defend the land. He added that peace will not be achieved in the Middle East except by ending the Israeli occupation fully, returning the land to its owners, and guaranteeing Arab rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

In a speech delivered on the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the air defense [force] in Syria, Gen. Talas accused Jordan and the Palestinians of "abandoning their land and the rights of their peoples by signing the Oslo, Taba, and Wadi 'Arabah agreements." History, he said, will have no mercy upon them.

General Talas spoke about the Israeli proposals as regards setting up early-warning stations on the Golan, stressing that this is blatant and completely unacceptable blackmail, and Syria will not accept any form of occupation of the land. He reiterated President Hafiz al-Asad's statement, "if they are thinking of early warning, the matter cannot be discussed, even if the peace process collapses. Because we do not want to get rid of one occupation only to find another."

The Syrian defense minister accused Israel of continuing to put obstacles in the way of peace, fabricating excuses, and resorting to maneuvers in order to keep the peace process at a standstill for the sake of maintaining the occupation and its control of Arab destinies and resources. He said that Syria responded to all the efforts made to boost hopes of reviving this peace. And it will accept nothing less than the recovery of the land [and Israel's withdrawal] to the 4 June 1967 lines. Any measure that conflicts with pan-Arab interests cannot be accepted.

Damascus Rejects 'Any Token of Occupation'

JN1710162095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli officials wrongly believe that Syria will, in the final analysis, yield to their impossible conditions and extortion policy and agree to ground observation stations in the Golan. In adopting such a viewpoint, they bear in mind that other Arab parties made considerable concessions which went far beyond Israel's dreams. To dissipate such illusions, President Hafiz al-Asad, in his interview with the Cairo-based AL- AHRAM newspaper, was keen to dot the i's when he said: The question of ground stations is not negotiable even if the peace process collapses, because we do not get rid of occupation only to maintain another form of occupation under another name.

Syria is for a genuine and just peace. However, it rejects any token of occupation on its territory. If Syria's requirements are met, peace can be established, otherwise Syria will not change its position. The Israeli officials will commit a grave mistake if they wager on a change in the Syrian position in favor of relinquishment. During four years of the peace process, Syria has not budged an inch from its position. It continued to demand a just, comprehensive, and stable peace in the region — a peace that will restore land and rights to their owners in full.

Syria has condemned the policy of relinquishment and relinquishers and considered it a stab to genuine peace. Successive events vindicated Syria's predications. The Palestinian people, both inside and outside the occupied territories, opposed the agreements that were concluded — which consecrated, rather than removed, the occupation and inflamed, rather than cooled, hotbeds of tension. President Hafiz al-Asad frankly stated: We must confront those whose will collapsed. We will not allow them to tamper with our values and constants.

Obviously, Israel's rulers are forging ahead with their policies which may lead, in the final analysis, to wrecking the peace process. They foiled the recent

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U.S. Administration's efforts which sought to reactivate the Syrian track. As is well known, President Clinton showed a personal readiness to exert extra efforts out of his belief that peace in the region will not be complete without Syria and Lebanon.

However, Israel's rulers showed no enthusiasm vis-a-vis the recent U.S. endeavor. They even placed further obstacles and did not conceal their displeasure with the new ideas which might possibly be proposed by the U.S. secretary. Furthermore, they advised him in public not to come to the Middle East. At the same time, they escalated their acts of aggression against southern Lebanon and violently blasted south Lebanon's townships, villages, and cities with destructive shells throughout day and night over the past few months. When the Lebanese resistance responded to these acts of aggression with operations inflicting heavy losses on the Israeli soldiers, Tel Aviv rulers started screaming, leveling accusations indiscriminately, and fabricating lies. Their reaction was as though Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon was not the cause of all that is happening.

Had Israel been serious about putting an end to tension and the cycle of violence, destruction, and death which afflicts the Lebanese citizens far more than the Israeli occupiers, it would have implemented UN Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese land. Had it done this, it would have responded to the bases of the peace process and removed the cause of the logjam on the Lebanese track.

The whole world, including the United States, knows that there can be no genuine peace without Syria and Lebanon. Such peace cannot be established without total removal of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights in accordance with UN resolutions. Syria and Lebanon have been clear on this issue. They stressed their commitment to peace and the bases of peace which are embodied in UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, which were the springboard for the U.S. initiative.

All the agreements Israel concluded away from commitment to the Madrid terms of reference and UN resolutions are prone to collapse in the final analysis. Hence emanated Washington's apprehension, which it constantly expresses, and its efforts to activate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. However, the Tel Aviv rulers make no response to these efforts. What confirms this statement is the constant, aggressive escalation against southern Lebanon and evasion of the minimum requirements of peace.

At the other extreme, Syria, over the past four years, proved that it seeks peace provided it leads to implementing Security Council resolutions, entrenching the supremacy of international law, and restoring land and rights to their owners. The Golan Heights has been Syrian territory since time immemorial and southern Lebanon is Lebanese territory. Syria will make peace only after the restoration of all the Golan and the occupied Lebanese territory. This Syrian demand was entrenched by Security Council resolutions which rejected occupation and annexation and called on Israel to withdraw and remove all the traces of aggression. Peace can never coexist with occupation. Viable peace, which responds to the world consensus, is just peace that ensures the rights, dignity, and security of all in accordance with the international law.

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Afghanistan

Taleban Helicopter Said Refused Permission To Land

LD1710185095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A helicopter carrying a Taleban delegation to Jalalabad was refused permission to land at the city's airport. BAKHTAR reports that a Taleban delegation was due to hold talks in Jalalabad with the representatives of a number of groups opposing the government yesterday. The Nangarhar Province authorities refused permission for the helicopter carrying Taleban representatives to land at the airport. The report adds the helicopter landed in an area in Sorkhrud, which is under Hekmatyar's control. [passage indistinct]

'Thousands' Leave Kabul After Taleban Attack

LD1710144095 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 17, IRNA — Reports receiving from Kabul say thousands of the inhabitants of the capital have left the city in the wake of Taleban militia attack. The fierce fighting between Taleban-Rabbani forces around Kabul has forced hundreds of families to leave the city for a peaceful place.

Taleban militants started attack on Kabul from last Tuesday [10 October] but despite heavy loss of life from both side no visible change emerged on the front line. Afghan sources say some families shifted from Kabul to Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province since last week and were staying in camps.

Pakistani newspapers reported on Sunday that many Afghan refugee groups after escalation of war are going towards Pakistan. Pakistan last week strengthened its security measures at its border with Afghanistan to stop influx of new Afghan refugees.

Government Loses Bamian, Given 'Respite' Near Kabul

BK1710112795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 17 (AFP) — Afghan presidential forces have lost another key city but were given a respite around Kabul where the heavy guns were silenced Tuesday [17 October].

Government officials admitted that the central city of Bamian had fallen into the hands of the Shiite faction Hezb-e-Wahdat [Unity Party], led by Karim Khalili.

But they added that fighters loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani had regained some lost ground since the defeat on Sunday, moving back into the neighbouring locality of Yakawlang.

Rabbani and his military commander, Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, have suffered several strategic blows in recent weeks, as the Taleban Islamic militia and other rivals have closed in on Kabul.

Presidential troops lost the western city of Herat last month and last week the towns of Chahar Asiab and Rishkor, in the Kabul region, fell to the Taleban.

"Mas'ud is desperate for a victory now," said one Western official in Kabul.

Rival Afghan factions met in the eastern city of Jalalabad to plan their future strategy on Tuesday as the capital enjoyed a temporary lull in fighting between Rabbani's forces and the Taleban, who have sworn to take the capital.

Two distinct sets of negotiations were under way, several Afghan sources here said, with battle rather than peace plans on the agendas.

One was between Rabbani's representatives and Yunus Khales, head of a dissident faction of the Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party].

The other was between representatives of the Taleban and the Supreme Coordination Council, a coalition of groups hostile to Rabbani, including the mainstream Hezb-e-Eslami led by fundamentalist Golbodden Hekmatyar and the Uzbek faction led by general Rashid Dostam.

Dostam remains a political wild card in the conflict. He is a former supporter of the communist regime and controls several provinces in the north. But he is despised by the Taleban.

"He knows he is number two on the list" if the Taleban manage to achieve their aim and topple Rabbani, said an Islamabad based diplomat.

There was also animosity between Dostam and Mas'ud, the military commander of the Kabul regime. "The most likely thing is Dostam will not take sides but let both camps weaken themselves," said the diplomat.

UN mediator Mahmoud Mestiri is expected in Kabul in the next few days to continue his shuttle diplomacy between the rival factions, said diplomatic sources.

But all negotiations should be viewed in perspective, said one Afghan journalist who highlighted how Afghans have not stopped arguing and fighting in the six years since the Soviet Union quit the country.

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On Tuesday the frontline south of Kabul, a few kilometers (miles) from the former royal palace of Darulaman, was calm.

But commander Jalili, head of one of the units of the 70th presidential division, said the Taleban offensive could come at any minute. "We are ready for them," he said.

Hezb-e Wahdat Party Captures Bamian

LD1710143495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bamian city was captured yesterday by the Khalili faction of Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party]. Mr. Nateqi, a spokesman of Hezb-e Wahdat in Tehran, confirmed the capture of Bamian city, saying: The Akbari [leader of another faction of Hezb-e Wahdat] forces are fighting with [as heard] the Afghan government forces for the control of the west of Kabul. Mr. Nateqi told the news unit of Iran's radio and television's external services that in the course of capturing Bamian city a number of Akbari's men were killed and 25 others captured, and a quantity of his party's weapons and ammunition was seized. He said: The situation is calm in Bamian and supporters of Karim Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat are now in the city. Akbari's Hezb-e Wahdat faction captured the city in fierce fighting five months ago.

'Heavy Clashes' Reported in Herat, Kabul

LD1710135695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Taleban helicopter has been shot down by the government forces in Herat Province. Mr. Khorasani, the Afghan embassy's charge d'affaires in Tehran, confirmed this report and said that a number of the helicopter's passengers were killed or injured. In an interview with a correspondent of the news unit of Iran's radio and television's external services, Mr. Khorasani said: Heavy fighting is going on around Herat city, i.e., Zendajan and Ghowrian between the Taleban and forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani. The government forces are intending to recapture the city by penetrating it.

He said: Eslam Qal'eh, in the west of Afghanistan, has been captured by the Taleban.

In the course of the interview Mr. Khorasani denied reports that Borhanoddin Rabbani has left the presidential palace and gone to an unknown place. He called the reports baseless. At the end of his interview the Afghan embassy's charge d'affaires said: Fighting is still continuing in Ghazni and around Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, and both sides are targeting one another's positions with heavy weapons.

Taleban Militia Fights Government Forces Near Kabul

BK1810094795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 18 (AFP) — Kabul, Oct 18 (AFP) — Afghan Government forces claimed Wednesday [18 October] to be pushing back the Taleban Islamic militia in fighting south of a strategic gorge about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital.

Forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani claimed to have advanced five to six kilometres (four miles) during the morning towards Chahar Asiab, a strategic town taken by the Taleban last week.

Speaking at a shack serving as a command post one kilometre (half a mile) north of the Sia Bini gorge, located just south of Kabul, a commander who gave his name as Major Wakil said government forces had already reached the town.

"We are now at the gates of Chahar Asiab but the Defence Ministry has ordered us not to go any further," Wakil said.

From the early hours gunfire could be clearly heard by people in the centre of Kabul, while two fighter planes were seen overflying the city during the morning.

Pro-Rabbani military sources claim that the hills of Khairabad, which the Taleban took at the same time as their victory at Chahar Asiab, were "cleansed" on Wednesday morning of Taleban fighters.

No independent confirmation was available for this claim.

In just over a year the Taleban have conquered the whole of southern Afghanistan. They have sworn to take Kabul as well and promised to drive out all Mojahedin, who they blame for Afghanistan's problems.

They entered the capital in March but were repulsed by Rabbani's forces.

The country has been gripped by an intractable civil war since Soviet forces pulled out in 1989.

One Westerner based in Kabul pointed out that the Afghan capital has never fallen to an invader, but only ever fallen from within.

"Kabul is a veritable natural fortress," he said.

The Sia Bini gorge is flanked by two hills held by government forces, who have installed artillery on the western hill, Bini Hissar.

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A line of peasants could be seen Wednesday widening the route towards the hill's summit for the military, work for which they are paid 7,000 afghanis per day (about one and a half dollars).

Meanwhile, peasants on the road leading to Chahar Asiab observed the comings and goings impassively. One elderly man offered a wry comment on the latest clashes: "They always start their fighting at the beginning of winter, when everything is running short and times are hardest for us poor people," said Ahmed Jon.

Fighting Between Taleban Commanders Reported

LD1710180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A serious clash broke out yesterday between the two mercenary commanders of the Taleban group in Logar Province. As a result of this clash a number of men from both sides were killed.

According to reports received by BAKHTAR, differences have sharply increased between the Taleban group after their heavy defeat around Kabul in which over 400 Taleban were killed or injured. The Taleban are now seeking to flee on various pretexts. Hundreds of men from this mercenary group who had come to fight with the wishful thinking of capturing Kabul city have already fled, and two of the Taleban commanders have opened fire on each other over this issue. This armed clash continued for several hours, as a result of which a number men from both sides were killed.

India

Chinese Planes Said Seen During Pakistan Attack

BK1710124695 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 12 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Harband Nagoike]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jammu 11 October — According to information received from very reliable sources, Indian soldiers have yet again foiled a Pakistani attempt to occupy the Siachen glacier. The incident took place on 9 October. Many Pakistani soldiers were reported to have been killed in the incident.

It has also come to be known that during Pakistan's latest attempt to occupy Siachen glacier, two Chinese Air Force aircraft were flying in Indian airspace. It is yet to be ascertained whether the Chinese aircraft deliberately violated Indian airspace or intruded by mistake.

The sources say the post which Pakistanis tried to occupy two days ago is of strategic importance. This was the second attempt this month to occupy the post. There have been many such attempts in the past. Following the latest incident, India has increased vigilance in the Siachen sector and deployed additional troops.

According to another report, Pakistani troops shelled seven Indian posts from the held-Kashmir side in Punch sector. Indians returned the fire. Sporadic firing has been continuing in this sector for the last two days.

Editorials View Arrest of Pakistan Army Officers

Bhutto Government Said 'Vulnerable'

BK1810062595 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 17 Oct 95 p 11

[Editorial: Arrests in Pakistan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The arrest of Islamist military officers, reportedly on suspicion of planning an "Islamic revolution", highlights several things about Pakistan. The first, lest anyone forgot, is that Benazir Bhutto's government remains vulnerable. Indeed, it is difficult to look ahead to a time when a democratically elected Pakistani Government, and one that looks westward at that, will not be threatened by fundamentalism and depend on the army's pleasure for its survival. The arrests also suggest that, at least for now, Ms Bhutto does indeed have that crucial support. The dominant and progressive section of Pakistan's army headed by General Abdul Waheed is with Ms Bhutto. General Waheed and Ms Bhutto are known to have been on good terms. Indeed, the arrest of the three dozen officers—among them Major-General Zahirul Islam Abbasi, who was expelled as military attache from India—is an attempt by the forward-looking section of the army to purge the Islamist group. If she did not have that support, these arrests would have been inconceivable whether or not a putsch was intended. In that sense, the arrests strengthen her hand at home: the purging of a subversive section within the army should convey that she is in control as well as give her peace.

Almost equally important for Ms Bhutto is the fact that the incident will strengthen the West's, and particularly America's, support for her government. Perhaps most importantly from the Indian point of view, the arrests again show that India cannot just wish away American support for Ms Bhutto. This incident has again shown how vulnerable her government really is to the two potentially most severe threats to democracy and modernism in Pakistan—the army and Islamic fundamentalism. When the two combine, as in this instance, the fragility of the Bhutto government becomes acute. The West is ever mindful of this. In the Zia years, it set its

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squeamishness about dealing with an army dictator aside and backed the general's government for its role as an ally in Afghanistan. With the Soviet withdrawal, democracy became again the foremost concern in dealing with Pakistan. Even today Afghanistan remains dangerously unstable and Pakistan's part in that troubled country is important for America. But Ms Bhutto is important to America chiefly as someone who wields influence with the Islamic world as the leader of an Islamic country, but speaks the language of the West. Islam has supplanted communism as public enemy number-one in the West's perception. And that makes Ms Bhutto pretty central in its scheme of things.

In a sense, this is also in India's interest. For India would surely rather deal with Ms Bhutto for all her shrill rhetoric and her appeal for the West which sometimes upstages India's politicians. She is really the most acceptable alternative for India as Pakistan's head of government. Indeed, it is partly her acceptability for India and the West that makes her the target of her fundamentalist compatriots. Though Ms Bhutto confirmed the arrests only in response to the comments of a senator, it is unlikely the details would have leaked without the government's knowledge. Ms Bhutto has refused to confirm at home that an Islamic putsch really was on the anvil, but she can be relied upon to make the best of the thing in New York. She will play—adeptly, if the past is any guide—the brave but fragile leader who can help the world fight militant Islam, but must herself be first rescued from it.

Move Aimed 'To Soften the U.S. Congress'

BK1810062495 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 95 p 13

[Editorial: Bhutto's Gameplan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The deliberate leak about the arrest of 36 Army officers on a charge of attempting to stage an Islamic revolution will be widely seen as an attempt by the Benazir Bhutto government to project Pakistan as a moderate Islamic State. The act was not necessary to convince the Clinton administration which had already certified the Bhutto regime's moderation in religious matters. The arrest news was timed to soften the U.S. Congress which is due soon to decide on the resumption of American military aid to Pakistan. It may also have other objectives. Mr Narasimha Rao is expected to use his current string of international visits to launch a campaign against Pakistan's sustained promotion of cross- border terrorism in the name of Islam. His point may even touch a chord in Egypt which has accused Pakistan of training Islamic fundamentalists who have targeted Western tourists in that country. Pakistan's cooperation with the U.S. in handing over an Iraqi accused of involvement in the World Trade Center blast in New York was highly appreciated in the U.S. Rounding up three dozens of Army officers accused of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] connection is likely to be seen as a strong move against forces of religion bigotry by those whose monitoring of Pakistan is at best superficial. It is interesting to note that the senior-most officer under detention, Maj. Gen. Zahirul Islam Abbasi, was, as a brigadier, the military adviser in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. He was declared persona non grata after India found him involved in espionage. As a discredited, pre-Bhutto regime appointee, Maj. Gen. Abbasi can be discarded without causing a dent on the military support for Ms Bhutto. The arrest of 36 officers, therefore, does not necessarily mean clipping the wings of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) whose primary motivation stems from Islamic fundamentalism.

Ms Bhutto's declaration of war on Islamic revolutionaries just necessarily be spurious in the Pakistani context. It may in Western eyes elevate the Pakistani regime to the level of those in Egypt and Algeria. But, precisely because of that, Ms Bhutto will get discredited among a larger number of Pakistanis than today. Therefore, her move against fundamentalists aimed at gladdening Western hearts would be balanced by sustained support to religious terrorists in Kashmir and to the fanatical Taleban in Afghanistan. The point to note is that suppression of "Islamic revolution" cannot be an attractive agenda for any Pakistani Government because of its potential for eroding popular support and for generating hostility in friendly Iran. Neither India nor, at the moment, Afghanistan will trust Ms Bhutto with taking the ISI on. It is through this instrumentality that she is sustaining terrorism and brazen interference in Kashmir and Afghanistan. The arrest of Abbasi and Co. may be noted as a move to deal with wayward soldiers. It would be too rash to see in this the beginning of the end of the ISI.

Delhi Offers Developmental Help to Kyrgyzstan

BK1810111095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has offered full support to the Kyrgyz Republic in its efforts for economic reconstruction. Addressing the third meeting of the Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission in New Delhi today, the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, made the offer saying that the host country is willing to share its experience and expertise in wide-ranging areas from agro-based industries to high technology industries. The minister said that as a consequence of the economic reforms undertaken by the Indian Government, India's

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production skills and quality of its products have improved tremendously.

Responding to India's sentiments, the Kyrgyz minister for trade and industry, Mr. Iordan, said that his country will prefer to use the tremendous Indian potential in different fields for the development of its people. He said that India is among the donor countries and offered a loan of $5 million to the Kyrgyz Republic. The minister said that the investment climate in his country is one of the best in the CIS nations.

Reportage, Reaction to BJP Move in Uttar Pradesh

BSP Calls For Resignation

BK1710145995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decided to withdraw its support to the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] government headed by Ms. Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh. The state BJP president, Mr. Kalraj Mishra; the former chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh; and other senior party leaders met the state governor, Mr. Motilal Vora, this evening and formally conveyed the decision of the party. The governor confirmed that he has received a letter from the BJP. He told newsmen that he is studying the situation and will take a decision soon.

Replying to a question, the governor said that the BJP has not staked its claim to form a government. The BJP leaders said that their decision to withdraw the support to the four-and-half-month-old Mayawati government follows charges of corruption and criminalization of politics.

The BSP president, Mr. Kanshi Ram, has directed Ms. Mayawati to submit her resignation to the state governor. Mr. Kanshi Ram telephoned Ms. Mayawati from Delhi and informed her about his decision. The Samajwadi Party leader, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has ruled out his party's support to the Mayawati government.

The Congress-I says it will take a stand on the issue after watching further developments in the state. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that the Congress-I hopes the BSP will draw correct conclusions from experience. The CPI [Communist Party of India] has termed the developments in Uttar Pradesh as inevitable. He [as heard], however, said that CPI will extend its support to the BSP government from outside.

Chief Minister Resigns

BK1810055495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Ms. Mayawati has resigned, submitting her resignation to the governor last night. Mr. Motilal Vora accepted the resignation but asked Ms. Mayawati to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made.

As reported, Ms. Mayawati's resignation followed the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] withdrawal of support to the four and half month old Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] government. The state BJP president, Mr. Kalraj Mishra; the former chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh; and other leaders of the party met Mr. Vora yesterday evening and formally conveyed the decision.

In a brief chat with newsmen at Raj Bhavan [Governor's Residence] in Lucknow, Ms. Mayawati said she is happy that her government did not compromise with the principles and ideology of the BSP despite being supported by the BJP. Reports from Lucknow say that imposition of president's rule is likely as no party is in a position to stake claim to form a new government. According to agency reports, the BJP with a strength of 176 in the 425-member assembly has decided not to stake claim to form a government.

The Samajwadi Party, the former coalition partner of the BSP, has demanded immediate dissolution of the assembly followed by elections. According to the state Congress-I president, Mr. Jitendra Prasad, the best course in the present political situation is early assembly elections. The state Janata Dal president, Mr. Ramashray Verma, has urged the governor to give time to all secular and forces of social justice to explore the possibility of forming the next government. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] politburo currently in session in New Delhi has also demanded holding of fresh elections in Uttar pradesh.

President's Rule Imposed

BK1810115995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President's rule has been imposed in Uttar Pradesh. The state assembly has been put under suspended animation. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique proclaiming president's rule in the state was issued in New Delhi this afternoon after receipt of a report from the governor, Mr. Motilal Vora. Earlier, the report was discussed in detail by the union cabinet chaired by the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in the absence of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who is away in Colombia to attend

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the nonaligned summit. The cabinet also discussed the political situation in the state following the withdrawal of support by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to the Mayawati government leading to her resignation.

Political Parties Favor Early Elections in Kashmir

BK1710101795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister today reviewed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the possibility of holding elections in the state with major political parties. Mr. S.B. Chavan told the leaders that there is a distinctive change and improvement in the overall situation and the government is confident to hold elections in the state despite efforts to step up violence by vested interests.

There was a general consensus among the parties about the need to have early elections in the state. They expressed their support to the government on the issue. Mr. Chavan reiterated that the government wants the fullest participation and cooperation of all sections of society.

The minister also agreed to the suggestion of some of the political parties that he should discuss the issue with the National Conference leader, Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Those who participated in today's meeting included Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki and Major Ved Prakash of the Congress-I; Mr. Jaswant Singh of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Mr. S.P. Malaviya of SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party]; Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, Congress-S; Mr. George Fernandes, Samta Party; Mr. Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; Mr. E. Ahmad, Muslim League; and Mr. M. Farooqi of the CPI [Communist Party of India] amongst others.

'Boycott or Sabotage' of Kashmir Elections Vowed

BK1810083095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, Oct 18 (AFP) — Moslem leaders of Kashmir on Wednesday [18 October] vowed to boycott or sabotage Indian- sponsored legislative elections in the state, saying they were committed to independence from New Delhi.

Spokesmen for a Moslem separatist campaign raging in Kashmir since 1989 rejected Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's plans for holding elections to the state assembly.

"We shall never allow elections to take place" in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, said the All Party Freedom Conference, an umbrella group of more than 30 separatist organisations.

"Kashmiris are fighting for self-determination and that is our goal," a conference spokesman told AFP in this summer capital of Kashmir.

Ali Shah Geelani, who heads the fundamentalist Jamat-e-Islami, said Kashmiris would boycott the polls if they were held, and threatened to launch a "special anti-election drive to thwart the Indian plans."

The comments followed a government-sponsored all-party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the possibility of holding the first legislative polls in Kashmir since 1987.

There was no consensus at the meeting, attended by Premier Rao's Congress (I) party and the entire mainstream opposition. Most parties said they opposed an election now.

Indian officials say Rao, 74, is determined to hold the elections, hoping that it will help end the bloody separatist drive that has left more than 12,000 people dead by official count. @housands of others have been injured.

With Moslem separatists firm on a boycott, the Indian government had hoped to convince the pro-India National Conference party, which once ruled the picturesque Himalayan state, to take part in the proposed polls.

But the executive committee of the National Conference, now meeting in Kashmir's winter capital Jammu, has decide@ not to do so, a party source said. He did not elaborate.

Kashmir has been governed directly by New Delhi sinced 1990. The current spell of federal rule expires in January 1996. Indian officials say a poll might be ordered in December under unprecedented security.

But the Indian authorities fear a mass boycott in the Kashmir Valley might actually strengthen the separatist campaign.

Abdul Gani, chief of the Moslem Conference party, said: "Kashmiri people have time and again demonstrated that they have no interest in any political process or elections sponsored by India."

He said only negotiations involving the Kashmiris and the Indian and Pakistani governments would resolve the row over Kashmir. India and Pakistan dispute Kashmir's ownership and have waged two wars over it since 1947.

"If elections are announced in Kashmir, there will be bloodshed in the state," warned Yasin Malik, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the state's premier Moslem separatist group.

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Only the Kashmir chapter of Rao's Congress party favours early polls.

"This is the ripe time to hold elections as most of the misguided youth (who took to the gun) want to shun violence," said Ghulam Rasool Kar, a Moslem who heads the Congress in the state.

"People are sick and tired of militancy," Congress spokesman Ved Prakash added in New Delhi.

Commentary Views Need for Defense Preparedness

BK1110075395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Commentary by Major General Dipankar Banerjee]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is need for a fresh look at India's defense preparedness. It is required for many reasons and compelling circumstances. At one level, the Brown Amendment to the Pressler Amendment has opened the way for resumption of U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. This has introduced new questions in the subcontinental security relationships. There are also larger questions of Pakistan's aggressive designs and its support to anti- India forces. But while considering India's defense preparedness, it is necessary to realistically evaluate an even wider range of capabilities and influences. This was the essence of the address of the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, to the naval commanders conference in New Delhi.

The recent arms package from the U.S. would introduce a significant technological upgradation of Pakistan's military capability. In the past whenever Pakistan received modern weapons, it had given rise to unrealistic aspirations in its leadership. In turn, this emboldened it to take aggressive action against India. Much of Pakistan's recent arms acquisitions increase in particular its naval capability. From the United States, it is going to get three XP-3C Orion surveillance-cum-striker aircraft. Armed with Harpoon missiles, they will have a long-range ability to strike at Indian naval ships and offshore coastal installations. Besides this, France is supplying three Agosta class submarines in the next three years. The whole package including technology transfer is worth $1 million — the single largest arms deal undertaken by Pakistan so far. It is likely to acquire additional ships from other resources.

There are other worrying signs elsewhere in the Indian Ocean, while they may not be an immediate challenge the possibility of future Chinese naval presence by acquiring port facilities in Myanmar [Burma] cannot be ruled out. Keeping in view these developments, Indian naval capability needs to be strengthened. Under the Brown Amendment, Pakistan will receive some critical spares and additional engines for its existing F-16 fleet. More important is the money that Pakistan will receive after the U.S. sells 28 F-16 aircraft it has already paid for. Pakistan is likely to buy 40 Mirage-V modern multirole combat aircraft.

Another worrying factor is Pakistan's support to insurgents and anti-national elements. This is the major and continuing problem that the Army has been facing. It will have to be tackled at the military level. The minister of state for defense production, Mr. Suresh Pachori, spelt out the approach necessary for defense planning at this stage during the conference. He stressed the need for a long-term perspective plan for defense, a plan that would evaluate the various contingencies carefully. Through proper planning and full utilization of domestic capability, it should ensure long-term fiscal commitment for the purpose.

Iran

Khamene'i Hails Progress of Islam Despite U.S.

LD1810113595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Gorgan City University sports stadium—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] My dear brothers and sisters: History is a lesson. Historical narratives are not there for our entertainment but to teach us lessons. What this means is that if a nation stands up and struggles to achieve justice, to achieve its rights, and to be unafraid of danger and resistance, that nation will be victorious over its oppressor enemies under any circumstances. The Iranian nation has seen this victory with its own eyes and tasted the sweet fruits of the chain of good deeds. The issue is the same today. Today, too, the Iranian nation enjoys utmost political strength and utmost glory in the eyes of international political analysts. It is a resistant, patient, and talented nation with a strong government and officials who are resolute and dedicated. This nation has decided to build the country without relying on foreigners in a way that will turn it into a model for all Muslim countries — even a model for all the countries in the world. Do not be surprised for this could very well happen! [passage omitted]

Who would have believed that there would come a day when the oppressed voice of justice would spread along the length and breath of this country and drive out the enemy from the arena. In those days, no one could easily believe that justice would win over injustice.

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Today, there may still be some people in society whose hearts are not enlightened by revolutionary faith and who still may doubt the messages of the revolution. But this doubt arises from ignorance. No one should doubt the message of the revolution. One day the banner of Islam was raised in this country and all the great powers opposed it. The United States opposed it, as did Russia in those days; Europe opposed it in the form of the NATO military collective; and organizations affiliated to these poles of power all opposed it. In the early days of the revolution, there were people who said it would be better to come to terms with the United States. They used to say: You cannot cope, you cannot do your work if you have the United States as an enemy. But our great and wise Imam [Khomeyni] stood steadfast and resolute, saying: We will have nothing to do with the United States; we do not have anything at all in common with the United States; a sheep and a wolf cannot set aside their differences; and the United States has dug its bloody nails into the bodies of nations and those bodies are bleeding. Iran cannot come to terms with the United States. [crowd chants]

The eminent Imam taught us that this country has to be built without reliance on foreigners and this moved the heavenly and Islamic message forward. We did stand up, our great nation tolerated the hardships, and we overcame the difficulties. I do not say that this country's problems are over for, after all, a nation has a great deal of problems along its path. But you, the people, have solved many of the problems because you have stood steadfast. This resistance and endurance on the part of the Iranian nation, the combatants, the mothers and wives of the martyrs, religious families and the self-sacrificing people — all caused the message of the Iranian nation to spread in the world.

My dear ones - the arrogant governments wanted to silence the message of the people of Iran; to silence the voice of the people of Iran. Today, your cry of God is great, is reverberating in the heart of the United States. [crowd chants "God is great"]

This is one of the outcomes of your resistance. Because of the steadfastness of the Iranian nation, because of the display of power by the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, Muslims everywhere have become proud of their religion. This is no mean feat! There was a time when the Muslims in the United States and Europe used to hide the fact that they were Muslims as they used to be ashamed of it. The glory which your steadfastness has endowed on Islam has led to a situation where these Muslims are proud of their religion. Yesterday in Washington, approximately 2 million people — some Muslims, some even Christians — stood and chanted Islamic slogans, clenched their fists, and chanted God is great. After the tumultuous demonstration by the oppressed blacks of the United States, both Muslims and Christian, had ended, the person who made the speech during the demonstration, read the Hamd Sura [as heard; Surat al-Fatihah is the opening passage] of the Koran and translated it into English. News reports say that everyone repeated the Hamd Sura. [passage omitted]

This is the Koran's message which is spreading in the world under the nose of the world's arrogant pole, that is the United States, which has fought so much with Islam and Muslims. This is the outcome of your steadfastness, you dear nation.

Islam, the Koran, and the message of the Islamic revolution moved forward in spite of the United States. I tell you, the building of this country, the full economic progress and independence of this country, the progress of education and research in this country, all of these will ultimately bring home their own fruits. And in spite of the arrogant and world power poles, in spite of the United States, the Iranian nation will be able to create in today's world, a civilization based on Islam and the Iranian nation will shine like the sun in today's world and in history. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to the United States," "Death to hypocrites"] [passage omitted]

U.S. Senator's Plan To Raise Sanctions Derided

NC1410084895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you have heard on the news, the White House in Washington has rejected a plan by a Zionist senator who had urged increasing the sanctions on Iran. According to this plan, which was promoted for months by the U.S. and Zionist mass media, the U.S. Government was to boycott all the foreign companies that have trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, prevent the payment of loans to these companies, and even ban the heads of these companies from visiting the United States.

Ever since reports on the compilation of this plan in the Senate were heard, many international experts have described it as a threat to U.S. foreign relations. The White House also stated that approval of this plan would be contrary to U.S. national interests since many companies from various countries have extensive trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and boycotting them would be tantamount to the declaration of an economic war against the world.

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Even some analysts described the Clinton administration's attempt to impose a unilateral embargo on Iran as a step to prevent the approval of the plan by Zionist Senator Alfonse D'Amato. They concluded that even though the White House was aware that its unilateral embargo on Iran would not be effective, it resorted to this anyway in order to prevent harming its relations with other countries and to satisfy the Zionists who have sunk their roots in the entire being of the U.S. Administration.

In this way the Washington administration was able to escape the major economic loss threatening it. However, one cannot ignore the fact that the isolation the United States suffered from the embargo on Iran and the refusal by other countries—even the United States' closest allies—to adhere to the White House's policy was a great disgrace for the U.S. Democrats' government and strongly reduced U.S. credibility in the world. Many analysts considered the U.S. failure to gain international support against the Islamic Republic of Iran to be a major and irreparable blow to the White House's dream to dominate the world.

Naturally when the imposition of a unilateral embargo on Iran was met with such widespread opposition throughout the world, the approval of a plan like Senator D'Amato's would completely destroy U.S. credibility abroad.

Daily Views Egyptian Clergyman's Trial in U.S.

NC1310221695 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Oct 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "The U.S. Justice System: A Toy in the Hands of the Zionists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A federal court in New York has found blind Egyptian clergyman Shaykh 'Amr 'Abd-al-Rahman and nine others guilty of the trumped up charges of "plotting and trying to foment disturbances in U.S. cities with the intention of pressuring the United States to change its Middle East policies."

The trial of 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is one of the most renowned and influential clergymen in Egypt's Islamic society, lasted nine months. He and a number of Egyptian Muslims were arrested without reason following the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York in February 1992.

During the trial, more than 20,000 pages of records were forged against him by the U.S. intelligence and security services. Not a single session over these nine months was aired by U.S. media so that public opinion in the United States and the world could judge for themselves. The New York Federal Court found him guilty on the same false charges that were used to arrest him. It is possible that this committed Egyptian clergyman will be sentenced to life in prison by the U.S. unjust justice system.

While the long proceedings were being held, no one in the world was given any sound information on the trials; the U.S. "democracy", which is filled with suppression, did not give world public opinion a chance to judge for itself how the trial was conducted. This is because the lawyers themselves were well aware that the publication of any type of news or reports on the trial would reveal the contradictions in the words and deeds of the officials of the United States' justice system.

The ridiculous charges brought against 'Abd-al-Rahman by the Americans were not the outcome of the court hearings. He was a victim of a trumped up case in which the U.S. intelligence services wanted to find him guilty. 'Abd-al-Rahman's crime is that he is a target of the Zionists' spite and hatred. His crime is that he is an influential Islamic leader. His crime is that he never looked favorably on the Camp David scheme of Cairo and he was not prepared, in any way, to endorse the disgraceful process of compromise with Israel in the Middle East. And it is precisely because of all these things that the fingerprints of the Zionists are very obvious from the very beginning of his trial until the end. 'Abd-al-Rahman's crime is that he is a clergyman who is very well aware of the current treasons being committed against the aspirations of the oppressed Palestinian nation on a regional level, and that he was informing the world of this even from inside the U.S. society.

But these were not crimes for which the U.S. justice system could legally take 'Abd-al-Rahman to court. Therefore, from the very start, a case was fabricated against him, and the powerful supporters of the Zionists inside the Cairo regime and in the United States played a major, key role in this.

The U.S. Government and the FBI, which played a major role in building a case against him, have still been unable to identify the true perpetrators of the World Trade Center explosion in New York. Also, for the past seven months they have been unable to find the slightest clue on the explosion that destroyed the Federal Building in Oklahoma. Attributing such explosions to people who enjoy great popularity in the world because of their strong popular appeal is but an clumsy effort to hide the weakness of the U.S. justice system. It is the habit of the U.S. political leadership to portray the Muslims as being at the top of the list of those to blame for their domestic problems and shortcomings. But actually, all these things show that the Americans

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are not trying to find who is to blame for their crises, and that what happened was due to the weakness of their justice system which is always accusing those that it targets within U.S. society.

'Amr 'Abd-al-Rahman will definitely not lose anything as a result of this long and contrived trial and its outcome. His trial was only able to ridicule U.S. justice and its judicial system. Naturally, the more rage and hatred that the United States and the Zionists harbor for such personalities, the more such people's popularity grows.

'Amr 'Abd-al-Rahman is a committed clergyman who is not considered to be guilty even by the U.S. people, who, even though they are subjected to such a volume of poisonous propaganda, continue to believe in the justness of his path and methods.

Rafsanjani, PRC Envoy on 'Growing' Relations

LD1710154895 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Tuesday [17 October] that relations between Iran and China are on a growing trend. In a meeting with Chinese ambassador to Tehran Hua Liming, the president said there are extensive grounds for bilateral cooperation and Iran is interested in further deepening of cooperation in all areas.

Liming thanked Iranian officials for their contribution to the promotion of Tehran-Beijing relations and said the solid ties between the two countries is owing to the political will Iranian and Chinese officials. The Chinese ambassador said the two countries enjoy common history and fully protect their independence. Iran as a powerful state is a key factor in peace and stability of the region, he said. Hua said Iran is one of the best friends of China.

Construction of Gas Pipeline With Pakistan Noted

NC1510091495 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Oct 95 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "A New Dynamism in Tehran-Islamabad Strategic Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a program announced earlier, the minister for petroleum and natural resources of neighboring Pakistan, Anwar Saifullah Khan, is to arrive in Tehran for talks on the construction of an Iranian gas pipeline to Pakistan and the establishment of a joint refinery in Karachi. The talks are intended to ratify final decisions by our country's officials on implementing these two massive projects.

There is no doubt that the construction of an Iranian-Pakistani gas pipeline and a refinery in Karachi are the most important economic projects being carried out by Tehran and Islamabad. There are considerable economic benefits for the nations and governments of the two neighboring Muslim countries. These projects are also a manifestation of the strong political determination at the highest level of decisionmaking in Tehran and Islamabad to protect and strengthen current strategic relations on the basis of common cultural, historical, political, and religious interests.

The fact is that in today's world economic cooperation is gradually gaining predominance over all other kinds of international military and political cooperation. Most current regional and international political problems have their roots in economic issues or are resolved by economic means.

The strategic relations between Iran and Pakistan should on principle be assessed and analyzed outside this framework. In the past few years these two neighboring countries have succeeded in upgrading their relations from the level of mere cooperation. They have found common ground on most international and regional issues and on those pertaining to the Islamic world, including the crises in Kashmir and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in cooperation within organizations such as the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC].

On a lower level, they have established coordinated relations in the field of security by staging joint naval maneuvers (IRPAK-1994) and a campaign against drugs. Thus, they have strengthened and consolidated their ties.

In such circumstances, it is natural that the broadening of economic relations and the implementation of projects such as the transportation of Iranian gas to Pakistan and the Karachi refinery will further deepen such strategic relations.

The pipeline for transporting Iranian gas to Pakistan, which will be 1800 kilometers long, will enable Iran to pipe 40 million cubic meters of gas to Pakistan daily. It will be completed at a cost of $4 billion to $4.5 billion. It is predicted that a major part of this will be provided through regional and international financial assistance by organizations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Initial talks on this project began when Benazir Bhutto took power for the second time in Pakistan in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] and chose Iran for her first foreign visit. She then has visited Iran at the head of an 80-member political and economic delegation.

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After preliminary agreements on the construction and establishment of these projects, contacts between the two countries' political and economic officials were stepped up and it was agreed to continue the work by setting up a commission, shares of which could be offered to reliable international companies. This company is now deciding which contractor company to choose.

The construction of a joint Iranian-Pakistani refinery in Karachi is one of the important issues that will probably be discussed during the Pakistani oil minister's visit to our country. The initial studies on the refinery began in 1371 and with the investment by 50-52 countries it will be able to refine 120,000 barrels of heavy crude oil.

The volume of investment announced for this project is $1.1 billion. The Pakistani Government has promised to cooperate with the Iranian side by providing customs facilities, guarantees for returning capital, and tax exemptions.

It is anticipated that the implementation of these projects, in addition to broadening cooperation between the two countries, will also provide a suitable formula for defusing differences between India and Pakistan under the aegis of economic cooperation. On the other hand, the economic presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional and international markets will be enhanced, despite unprecedented pressure by the United States on Iran and Islamabad to relinquish such projects.

The implementation of these and other similar projects, such as the linking of the east Asian railroad to Europe with the construction of the Kerman-Quetta railroad, will certainly heighten the importance of the Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan in international and regional equations. Through correct decisionmaking in a healthy and wise atmosphere, the Islamabad administration will create conditions to attain these objectives.

Oil Minister Meets With Pakistani Counterpart

LD1110124095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ways of exporting Iran's gas to Pakistan were discussed today at a meeting between the two countries' oil ministers.

At the meeting, which took place in Tehran, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said that Iran is prepared to export gas to Pakistan. He added that this depends on the final negotiations concerning the establishment of gas supply and export routes.

Pakistan's oil minister, for his part, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its benevolent cooperation and emphasized the expansion of oil [as heard] cooperation between the two countries.

Projects With Pakistan Viewed

LD1110142795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior oil delegation headed by the Pakistani minister for oil and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday [10 October].

During its stay in Tehran, the said Pakistani delegation will discuss such projects as construction of the pipeline for the transfer of the Iranian natural gas to Pakistan as well as construction of a joint oil refinery in Karachi.

Construction of the Iranian natural gas pipeline to Pakistan and a joint oil refinery are the most important economic projects between Tehran and Islamabad during the course of the ties between the two Muslim nations.

According to many economic experts, commissioning of these projects in addition to being economic wise [as heard] rewarding for both parties, will also demonstrate a strong political will at the highest levels of decisionmaking in both countries for the preservation and reinforcement of regional and mutual ties.

Beyond doubt, expansion of economic ties between Iran and Pakistan can upgrade the two countries' economic status in the region and the world, taking into consideration the membership of the two states in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] as well as the commissioning of joint projects.

The Islamic Republic of Iran' natural gas pipeline to Pakistan is estimated to be 1,800 kilometers long, and with its construction, the Islamic Republic of Iran will export daily 40 to 50 million cubic meters of natural gas to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The project is expected to require $5 billion. Through the setting up of a consortium for the construction and commissioning of the project, Iran and Pakistan have also agreed to allow foreign companies in the region and the world to participate in the project.

Construction of a joint Iran-Pakistan oil refinery in Karachi port will be mainly commissioned by the Iranian oil experts and specialists. And this project will cost $1.1 billion.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken to complete such projects as road construction and the setting up of cement factories in Pakistan and link the Iranian railway to the Pakistani railroads.

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According to economic experts, the fulfilment of these projects in addition to expanding ties between the two states will also provide for a suitable ground for reducing regional differences under economic cooperation.

Beyond doubt, the introduction of such projects in the region is inevitable in upgrading the status of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan in the regional and world equations.

Bandar Gas Refinery To Be Operational by Mar 1996

LD1410164995 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Semnan, Oct. 14, IRNA — A gas refinery now under construction in the southern port city of Bandar would be put into operation by end of the year (March 20, 1996) with a daily capacity of 16 million cubic meters.

Managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Mohammad-Nejad said here Saturday [14 October] that the refinery, fed by Sarkhun gas field, was being constructed by Iranian experts, with 60 percent of its equipment being manufactured domestically.

Mohammad-Nejad said that Kangan gas refinery's daily capacity has risen to 80 million cubic meters from 59 million cubic meters following inauguration of its second phase over the past 20 days.

He said the refinery was the biggest one of its kind in the Middle East and among the world's five important refineries.

He put the country's daily gas output at 135 million cubic meters and said the amount stood at 25 million cubic meters in 1979.

The Iranian official continued that besides household consumption of tapped gas, between 45 million cubic meters and 50 million cubic meters of gas were consumed by industries and power plants at present, which the figure included 42 percent of the country's total gas consumption.

Mohammad-Nejad said that 863 projects concerning production, transfer and distribution of gas were being implemented throughout the country at present.

He added that Iran has made great success in attaining self- sufficiency in production, transfer and distribution of gas with 99 out of 100 items used in this industry being made inside the country.

Mohammad-Nejad said that besides implementing gas projects inside the country, his company was ready to set up refineries and lay pipelines in other countries with an aim of transferring natural gas.

To this end, he said, Iran was to lay pipelines for transfer of natural gas in Turkmenistan Republic.

Iran ranks second in the world with proves reserves of 20,000 billion cubic meters of natural gas which accounted for 46.4 percent of the total gas deposits in the Middle East and 36.5 percent in OPEC member countries.

Council Allocates Funds for Nowruz Oilfield

LD1710131995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night chaired the meeting of the Economic Council. [passage omitted]

The meeting approved the following allocations of credit: The sum of 3.4 billion rials for the reconstruction of four drilling systems; the sum of 11.4 billion rials for the purchase of a special pipe used for oil drilling, and the sum of 4.8 billion rials for carrying out underwater operations to extend the Nowruz oilfield.

IRNA on Imports of Azerbaijan Gas Oil

LD1810145895 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Astara, Gilan Prov., Oct 18 (IRNA) — The Republic of Azerbaijan is to export to Iran 1.5 million tons of gas oil in the current Christian year, reported Baku TV monitored in this northern city Wednesday [18 October].

The report quoted officials from Azerbaijan State Oil Company as saying that Iran will provide electricity for Nakhichevan in return.

It added that Azeri oil officials during their recent visit to Iran signed a letter of understanding with their Iranian officials to this effect.

'Mystery' Noted Over Iraqi Defector's Identity

LD1310143295 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct. 13, IRNA — A press conference held by an Iraqi defector in London has done little to clear the mystery that surrounds his identity or when or how he escaped from Iraq with his wife and children.

Presenting himself as Husayn Rashid Hasan, he gave few clues about the defector, who billed himself as the former master of ceremonies in Saddam Husayn's private office as did his appearance Thursday [12 October] with a false beard and dark glasses.

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Despite repeated questioning at Thursday's news conference, he gave no precise detail or dates about his recent history and refused to confirm media reports that he had fled to Jordan more than a year ago but had just arrived in Britain in recent days.

Much press speculation in Britain focused on the UK Foreign Office admitting that it would be holding talks with the defector, with THE GUARDIAN reporting Thursday that he was also expected to be debriefed by the British intelligence service, MI6.

The former Iraqi official said that he had worked with Saddam's son-in-law, Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, who fled to Jordan in August, but in comparison played down the amount of information he had to give.

Suggestions were that the defector was allowed to come to London as some kind of restitution for British Intelligence being denied access by U.S. intelligence to Kamil Hasan, when he defected.

Iraq Vote Said Sign of Saddam Power Instability

LD1710162395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The holding of the referendum in Iraq on Sunday [15 October], which was about renewing the term of office as president of Saddam Husayn for another seven years, has met with different kinds of reaction.

Asserting that the holding of the referendum was aimed at giving an answer to the lies that the enemy propagates about the nature of power in Iraq, Baghdad considers the referendum to have been a kind of achievement of legitimacy for the Iraqi Government. In reality, the leadership in Iraq wished to make the people of Iraq and, even more, international public opinion believe that Saddam has true power in Iraq.

Many political analysts considered the defection of Saddam's sons-in-law and their demand for asylum in Jordan to be signs of shakiness in the Iraqi Government machinery and were of the opinion that the resulting shock of this event had made the pillars of the rule of the Ba'th Party in that country tremble. This is why, in the opinion of these analysts, Saddam's decision to hold a referendum — rather than being a manifestation of a real and heartfelt wish on his part to move toward democracy — was an unavoidable measure aimed at halting the increase in the growing internal dissatisfaction and the pressures arising from the continuation of the embargo on that country.

Of course, the Iraqi Government has overlooked [as heard] the possibility that the holding of this referendum in Iraq can reveal the West's hidden inclination to favor the continuation of the rule of the Ba'th Party and allow Western factions to bring into the open — by taking certain actions — their covert opposition to the coming to power of alternative forces. In fact, this is why, political analysts see the existing conflict between the U.S.-London axis and European countries, on the one hand, and the lack of confidence of the Washington side with regards to any forces which could possibly take over in Baghdad as the main factor for the survival of the Iraqi Government. The analysts believe that the Iraqi president has knowingly exploited this opportunity in order to strengthen this mentality in his Western critics.

The reaction to and reports about the results of the referendum all speak of a kind of adjustment in the West's obstinate position on the question of power in Iraq; a power the destiny of which — regardless of the violent, adventurist and anti-human image of it which has been portrayed — is intertwined with the conflicting and rivalrous interests in the region.

Velayati To Attend Foundation Meeting in Malta

LD1410095695 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here Saturday [14 October] morning for Malta to attend the Forum Foundation meeting.

The Forum Foundation, the headquarters of which is in Switzerland, hold regional meetings in other countries each year beside its annual meeting in the city of Crans Montana.

During last year's regional meeting held in Romania, a day was nominated as Iran's day.

At the Malta confab, Velayati is to deliver a speech on the Caspian Sea. He will also meet with high-ranking officials of that country and a number of other states on the sidelines of the conference.

Velayati Views NAM Foreign Ministerial Session

NC1710135295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] foreign ministerial conference, which opened in Cartagena, Colombia yesterday, is to end today. On the conference sidelines, our correspondent in Colombia, interviewed Foreign Minister Velayati. The minister

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described the Islamic Republic's conference objectives and said:

[Begin Velayati recording] NAM is the most significant global gathering of the Third World countries and the countries of the South. Our efforts, as well as the efforts of other countries who have similar stands, are aimed at strengthening the movement and at preventing any deviation that will reduce the political strength and efficacy of the movement.

With the efforts made during recent weeks and months, the draft of the final communique of the NAM summit has been prepared in a very satisfactory way. We, too, have put forth some proposals on how to strengthen this draft at the conference. These proposals are mainly on disarmament, respect for religious and national values, the situation in Bosnia, and other major Third World and world problems. We think that good and constructive activities have been carried out to this end. [end recording]

Majles Speaker, Cuban Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD1410124495 Tehran IRNA in English
1153 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA — Adoption of an independent policy and refusal to follow domineering powers are among the policies shared by Iran and Cuba, Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told Cuban ambassador to Tehran Enrique Trujillo Rapallo, here Saturday [14 October].

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nouri, referring to Iran and Cuba as two countries inflicting damage on the expansionist policy of the US, said the world today is going ahead in a more realistical way than ever before.

He added that due to the same reason, almost no countries of the world have joined the U.S. in its economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rapallo for his part briefed Nateq-Nuri on the economic conditions in his country and America's new move to pass a law on tightening economic sanctions against Havana.

He called for expansion of Tehran-Havana relations, especially in parliamentary field.

Va'ezi, Irish Official Urge Closer Cooperation

LD1410175295 Tehran IRNA in English
1727 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA — The visiting head of the Irish Parliament's Foreign Policy Committee, Alan Dukes, conferred with the Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, here Saturday [14 October].

The Irish parliamentarian said he looked forward to the hosting of the third session of the joint economic commission soon to promote Iran's exports to the Republic of Ireland.

Expressing his country's interest in the establishment of peace and stability in the region, Dukes said Ireland is ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard.

Va'ezi welcomed the promotion of all-out Tehran-Dublin ties and expressed hope that the current visit by the Irish delegation would have positive impact on enhancing mutual cooperation.

He also stressed, "we are dismayed with the current crises and conflicts in the region, adding that Iran being a stable country, it will try to settle these crises in order to establish peace in the region."

Alan Dukes leading an Irish parliamentarian delegation arrived here last Tuesday for an official visit and has already met with a number of Iranian officials.

Ambassador Talks With Senior Kuwaiti Officials

LD1510220695 Tehran IRNA in English
2147 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Gholam-'Ali San'ati held separate meetings on Saturday [14 October] night with senior Kuwaiti officials for expansion of relations between the two countries. San'ati had talks with Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, First Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan.

In the meetings, the two countries' mutual relations as well as issues of bilateral interests were reviewed with the Kuwaiti officials calling for further expansion of bilateral relations. During the talks the scheduled visit to Kuwait of Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Morteza Mohammad Khan. [sentence as received]

Habibi Meets Yemeni Envoy, Discusses Relations

LD1710184695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with First Vice President [Hasan] Habibi today, Mr. 'Abdallah al-Razi, the new Yemeni ambassador in Iran, referred to the

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historical and cultural ties between the two countries. He said: The all-round cooperation between Iran and Yemen, as two important Middle-Eastern countries, could play a significant role in the stability and security of the region.

He said the political will existing in the top officials of the two countries was a suitable ground for the expansion of mutual ties, particularly in the economic field. He declared Yemen's desire to make more use of our country's experience in the fields of oil, agriculture, and fisheries.

At the meeting First Vice President Habibi described the long- standing and deep ties between the two countries as a good foundation for the expansion of cooperation in the future. Welcoming the unification of the two Yemens he said: We hope that unity and solidarity would further strengthen between Islamic countries.

Rebel Radio Cites Dissident Group on Executions

NC1310075095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

["Text" of a statement by the Nation of Iran Party issued on 9 October 1995; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Statement on the culmination of the repression of dissidents in Iran:

In tandem with the publication of reports on the recommencement of the execution of dissidents in Iranian prisons, incoming reports from Tehran indicate that yesterday afternoon—Sunday, 16 Mehr [8 October]—about 16 members of a pressure group of the Islamic Republic of Iran known as Ansar-e Hezbollah [Friends of the Hezbollah] spread terror in the capital, demonstrated in the city's main streets and blatantly called for the closure of the small number of newspapers and publications that disagree with the ruling system's absolute policies, as well as for the prevention of speeches by some dissidents.

The commencement of the new phase of executions which, according to statements issued by two Iranian dissident political organizations, has led to the [word indistinct] of three and the execution of eight by firing squad, as well as the resumption of terror by pressure groups affiliated to the regime in the Tehran streets stem from the [words indistinct] of the despotism ruling our country. These actions are a bid to create an atmosphere of terror throughout the country on the eve of the contrived Majles elections.

The Nation of Iran Party calls on all the Iranian freedom-lovers to organize protest movements to thwart the new plots and warns that silence in front of such acts will (?help to protract) the rule by the Islamic Republic's domination on Iran.

[Date] Monday, 17 Mehr 1374 [9 October 1995]; [Signed] The Nation of Iran Party Abroad

MKO Reportedly Warns of Planned 'Provocations'

LD1710165595 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Oct. 17, IRNA — A member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) said in Bonn on Monday [16 October] that the grouplet has conspired to launch anti-government provocations and propaganda campaign in the crowded areas of Tehran in the next few days, it was announced here on Tuesday.

Iranian ambassador to Bonn, Hossyn Musavian, told IRNA correspondent here that a man cliaming to be an MKO member had contacted the Bonn embassy several times requesting a private talk with the ambassador.

Musavian added that the man introducing himself as a member of the 'Nik Hussein hide out' in Cologne, Germany, said that the terrorist group has mobilized all its resources to organize a faked atmosphere of tension in busy streets of the Iranian capital city such as 'Enqilab' and 'Azadi' avenues.

Under the conspiracy the terrorist group is to blow the negligible incidents out of proportion with the help of Western media.

Musavian qouted the man as having said that two members of the grouplet in Cologne, Qassem and Ms. Kalantari, met two weeks ago and had a telephone contact with their base in Baghdad in which they received instructions to set up a headquarters in Bonn.

Musavian further qouted the man as saying that the headquarters headed by Shahnaz, residing in Germany, has conspired to dispatch several members from Iraq to Tehran to lead the operation for ceating an atmosphere of fear in specified spots of Tehran.

Musavian said that according to evidences the man is in fact a member of the MKO.

The member of the grouplet whose name is not disclosed for security reasons, said that he is sick and tired of the lying and false interpretation of the developments in iran by the terrorist MKO.

Musavian said the man said the grouplet in a bid to propagate their move, which lacks any substance, has also prepared some notices to be sent to the media and foreign embassies.

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The Iranian ambassador said the man has also added that he has more information on the terrorist activities of the grouplet and because of the prevailing inhuman relations and the corruption in the MKO, he has decided to put it at the disposal of the Iranian officials.

The Iranian ambassador said in the wake of the recent defeats of the U.S. in political, economic and military scenes, the grouplet has been given a new mission to launch a propaganda campaign and a psychological wafare against the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at creating faked tension in the crowded areas of Tehran.

He said the mission is merely a propaganda campaign to help get the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) out of the Baghdad deadlock.

Musavian said the MKO attempted to make similar moves in the past all of which were doomed.

"Iranian people enjoy high political awareness. The Islamic Republic becomes further consolidated and popular supports grow deeper by conspiracies of the enemies," the Iranian ambassador stated.

Musavian said the future would prove that such a conspiracy would have no effect on the growing trend of the consolidation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He called on foreign reporters to travel to Iran to get acquainted with the progresses made in Iran and the stability of the Islamic system.

Khamene'i Addresses Relatives of Revolution Martyrs

LD1410213795 Tehran IRNA in English 2123 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Oct. 14, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, here Saturday [14 October] received a group of relatives of martyrs of the Islamic revolution.

In his address to them, the leader of the Islamic revolution, praised the lofty status of the martyrs and disabled war veterans. He said those who had done divinely inspired acts of self-sacrifice and as a result lost their life or suffered crippling injuries were the most elite of the universal human society.

The leader stressed that Iranians were known for having such ideal qualities as patience and resistance against the unrighteousness, adding that it was due to these outstanding characteristics that prominent statesmen, politicians and revolutionary leaders worldwide, admired the Iranian nation and had unique respect for them. He said the parents of the martyrs, too, would obviously partake of divine compensation for having reared such self-sacrificing youth as they did.

Ayatollah Khamene'i recalled the two opposing forces of right and wrong throughout the history of the human civilization saying that it was fortunate that today the forces of righteousness were in a position of power. The leader said he was convinced that Iran's struggle for construction, preservation of jihad culture and that of martyrdom, for the consolidation of Islamic values will be successful. He finally stated that under the divine blessings, the nation's show of resistance on the path of righteousness would eventually triumph.

IRGC Commander on Combat Readiness, Security

NC1210140295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Sep 95 p 8

[Report on an interview with Brigadier General Ja'fari, commander of the ground forces of the IRGC by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of Holy Defense Week, the commander of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] ground forces stated in an interview that in tandem with the IRGC's programs, hundreds of thousands of basijis have also begun to be recalled.

Brigadier General Ja'fari added: From now on, all the basijis will be recalled to the IRGC ground forces twice each year for 72 hours of necessary training.

He stated: The objective behind this state-wide program is to maintain the basiji forces' combat readiness, to elevate organizational efforts in the IRGC, and to acquaint them with the most modern defense methods. He added: This year, by completely blocking the country's eastern and western borders, infiltration by insurgents, smugglers, and counterrevolutionaries into the country has been fully stopped. The IRGC has used all possible means in order to block the borders, and for this reason, the people living on our Islamic homeland's borders have enjoyed all the blessings of complete security during the current year.

He referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a powerful country in the region and stated: The IRGC is fully prepared for defense throughout the country and strongly confronts any type of insecurity or instigation. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Ja'fari went on to refer to security and defense issues and said: On the basis of the esteemed leader's policy and plans, we now have two ground forces—in the army and in the IRGC—and the duties and missions of these two have been separated. The

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IRGC is in charge of the country's domestic issues. As a matter of precaution, it is ready and powerful. Under the control of the supreme commander, it is ready to carry out its duties anywhere and in any field that is deemed necessary, even against a foreign threat.

He said: In our opinion, as far as war is concerned, a powerful precautionary force plays a major determining role both in the Islamic Republic and in all countries, and is also a deterrent. He described the role of the IRGC ground forces as a precautionary force under the command of the supreme commander, able to act as a strong deterrent against many possible threats and added: We consider our readiness to be directly linked with the steps that are taken to deter any possible threats against the country and the system.

Commenting on the country's domestic security situation, Brigadier General Ja'fari said: As our dear people know, the IRGC ground forces have been assigned the duty of tending to the domestic situation and security issues in the southeastern and northwestern areas and in Kordestan, and during the past two years security has been established. Now we can say that the security that we enjoy in all the parts of the country is rarely seen in other countries of the world.

Speaking about strengthening the defense structure, he said: A major part of the plan for strengthening the defense structure is devoted to ways to develop the ground forces and has been envisaged in the programs of the general staff of the armed forces. We are doing our best to achieve progress, and have placed the arming of our units with modern arms and carrying out specialized training at the top of our list of our priorities.

Also, we are implementing programs of exercises and training for the necessary readiness for rapid presence by the basiji forces in the combat units.

Steel Sheet Production Said Rising in Esfahan

LD1310110495 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, Oct. 13, IRNA — Steel sheet output at Mobarakeh steel complex increased by 727 tons in the Iranian calendar month of Mehr (Sept. 23-Oct. 22), as compared to the previous month. According to the public relations office of Esfahan Mobarakeh steel complex, in central Iran, the daily steel sheet production now amounts to 9,085 tons.

The report added that daily production of steel sheet at the complex had increased from 7,333 tons in the Iranian month of Mordad to 8,358 tons in Shahrivar (July 23-Sept. 22).

Pakistan

Editorial Questions Presence of U.S. FBI Agents

BK1210151095 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 11 Oct 95 p 3

[Editorial: "What Has the FBI To Do Here?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, after the rocket attack on the Sindh Secretariat, several agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] from the United States arrived on the scene of the incident. They inspected the damaged building for quite some time and went away. Everyone knows that a good number of FBI agents are present in our beloved motherland. But the fact that their jurisdiction has expanded to such an extent that they have started analyzing local incidents, which do not have anything to do with the United States, its employees, citizens, or its interests, is just now emerging. We would like to ask the government on what basis has it granted permission to the FBI to interfere in our internal affairs? When the employees of the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi were murdered, a large posse of FBI agents descended upon the city. Although this was an objectionable matter, it was tolerated because there was U.S. interest. But no apparent U.S. interest is involved in the aforementioned incident. At times, it so happens that some country may seek the help of another in an emergency situation. However, this is a formal process in which a government will seek such help at the government-level only. It is possible that in the above context, it would have been so but the people have no knowledge of it. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government to admit if it sought the assistance of the FBI, and to take the people into their confidence. On the contrary, the people are justified in thinking that the government has granted open license to the FBI agents to interfere in our internal affairs and that it is part of any clandestine deal.

Leghari To Release Report on Officers' Arrest

BK1810113295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Oct 95 p 1, 15

[Report by Khalid Qayum]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad— President Farooq Leghari said the arrest of more than 30 army officers was under investigation and the report would be made public after completion.

Talking informally to newsmen he dispelled the impression that the incident had caused "restlessness in the country." The Prime Minister has already said that the report would be made public and there should be no more gossiping about it.

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To a question he said he would receive the report after it is finalised. [passage omitted]

Report Says Officers' Arrest 'Quaked' Government

BK1610092395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — The arrest of Army officers first hinted by Senator Tariq Chaudhry and then confirmed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto herself has quaked the entire Establishment.

While official quarters remain mum about it, the incident has triggered widespread speculation. According to unconfirmed reports the arrests of over 30 Army officers which continue since the third week of September came about when illegal arms were detected in the staff car of a Brigadier at Attock. The investigation led to a major operation within the Army questers which may be even bigger than the infamous Rawalpindi and Attock conspiracy cases.

Adjournment motions had already been moved in the National Assembly and the Senate to discuss this matter. Official sources confirm that Defence Minister Aftab Shabaan Mirani may take both the Houses into confidence whenever they go into session after the Presidential address to the Parliament's joint session.

An intense investigation is believed to be under way with Army top brass involved in this exercise. Some military quarters say the officers are being tried for a breach of privilege. Other sources however hint that the situation may be much more dangerous than that. Inter Services Public Relations is yet to contradict the reports that these officers wanted to bring about an armed Islamic Revolution with strong links with tablighi jamaat.

The investigators are believed to have recovered from the copies of speeches which were to be read after an 'elimination process.' They had plans to conduct a grand purge of politicians from both sides, a fact hinted by Tariq Chaudhry when he said in his Press conference that "if politicians did not behave, there will be killings of politicians. Tariq, it seems, was well aware about the conspiracy.

Whatever his motives may have been, his Press conference has jolted that entire military bureaucracy. He is believed to have been well briefed about the operation.

However what makes the whole thing more scary is that the incident took place hardly a week before the meeting of Army top brass on September 30. Some sources do not ruleout that the rebels may also had plans to target that meeting.

Six Afghan Envoys Said Declared Persona Non Grata

BK1710144695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a Foreign Office press release, Pakistan has declared six officials of the Afghanistan Embassy in Islamabad and Afghan Consulates at Karachi and Quetta as persona non grata. They have been told to leave the country within 48 hours. The government has also decided to expel 11 Afghan nationals from various parts of the country. They are also to leave Pakistan within 48 hours.

Bhutto Departs for NAM Summit in Colombia

BK1710043395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad last night to lead Pakistan's delegation at the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] opening at the Colombian city of Cartagena tomorrow. She is expected to address the summit on the first day of the conference.

She would strongly refer to the just struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirm the principle of self-determination and sovereign equality of states. The prime minister would call for nuclear disarmament at the global and regional levels. She may ask the NAM to focus on fostering economic and social development and propose the creation of an international group of experts for this purpose. The prime minister will also attend a dinner to be hosted by the president of Colombia in honor of participating heads of states in the evening.

Besides attending the NAM summit, Ms. Benazir Bhutto will have a meeting with the Colombian president. She would exchange views with several heads of delegations on matters of mutual interest. Later, she is scheduled to leave Colombia for New York to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations.

The prime minister was seen off by the Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai and Defense Minister Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, besides senior officials. Those who accompanied the prime minister included Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, MNA [Member of National Assembly]; Federal Ministers Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal and Makhdum Amin Fahim; Minister for State Mr. Raza Rabbani; special assistants Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali and Mr. Shahid Hassan Khan. Mir Balakh

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Sher Mazari, MNA, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chattha, MNA, Senator Etejaz Ehsan, and Kazi Asad Abed, MNA, are also accompanying the prime minister.

TV Reports Kashmir Leader Detained in Colombia

BK1710145295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kashmiri leader, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, who is in Cartagena to attend the Non-aligned Movement [NAM] Summit, has blamed India for his temporary detention by the local authorities. Talking to PTV [Pakistan Television], he said he had been detained for 6 hours as India had misguided the Colombian authorities about his identity alleging him to be a terrorist. Mir Waiz Farooq said this misconception was soon removed and the local authorities in Cartagena had tendered due apology.

He said he is looking forward to meeting many world leaders attending the NAM summit. He said he will apprise these leaders about the situation in Kashmir and ask them to support the Kashmiri struggle for their right of self-determination.

Spokesman Welcomes UK Party Policy on Kashmir

BK0610135195 Islamabad Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has welcomed the position adopted by the Labor Party conference on Kashmir as this reflects the growing consensus in Britain over the need or an early peaceful solution of Kashmir problem. While welcoming this development, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that according to reports, the international executive of the British Labor Party during its annual conference held at Brighton adopted a statement on policy on Kashmir. The conference noted the repeated violations of human rights experienced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It recorded that the conflict has become a permanent source of tension in relations between India and Pakistan since the last five decades.

Daily Hopes for 'Enhanced' U.S. Role in Kashmir

BK1810062095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Enhanced U.S. Role on Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kashmiris would need more than sympathy from the United States to win their right of self-determination and be free of the Indian military occupation. It must be in the fitness of things if the sole surviving superpower focused on Kashmir as the most dangerous flash-point in the contemporary world. As a country which has chose to lead other nations under the New World Order, the U.S. must fulfil its obligation to take meaningful steps to help the people of Kashmir gain their birthright of free choice as accepted by the United Nations in its resolutions on the subject. That would be the best way to build peace in this region which continues to face dangers of an armed conflict which may threaten security in a much wider area. That must have been the background in which, during the past one week, senior officials of Clinton administration and Congressional leaders representing both major parties hold detailed meetings with the All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC) chief Mir Waiz Umar Farooq and his delegation. As stated by the Kashmiri American Council spokesman, some concrete suggestions were made by the Kashmiri leaders which are a "pre- requisite to the creation of a climate which is needed to establish a dialogue among all parties to the conflict; the governments of India and Pakistan and the true representatives of the Kashmiri people, for a final settlement to the dispute."

Details of the suggestions made are not available. However the list of U.S. officials and Congressional leaders who met the Kashmiri leaders indicates an increased level of U.s. interest in helping the Kashmiris win their freedom from Indian occupation. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum shared this perception when he reiterated that the Kashmiri leaders from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) should be provided an opportunity to meet on neutral ground in order to sit together and find ways to solve the Kashmir issue. Sardar Qayyum had visited UK and the U.S.. In the U.S., Sardar Qayyum met State Department officials and also the leaders of APHC who were there at that time. This may not be a mere coincidence. Surely the U.S. would want a consensus of views of Kashmiri leaders on how best to resolve the issue. Sardar Qayyum has described it as a major breakthrough. Let us hope that the gathering of Kashmiri leaders in the U.S. and their detailed discussions with the Americans will be the beginning of a more positive and fruitful U.S. role in South Asia.

For example, it is logical to believe that the increased level of U.S. interest would culminate in its readiness to get involved in what could ultimately turn out to be a lengthy peace process. That was the point which Mir Waiz was trying to make when he sought enhanced and active U.S. engagement in promoting a settlement of the Kashmir dispute and an end to Indian atrocities there.

There may, however, be a few pitfalls which every one would be well advised to avoid. The Americans generally find it difficult to resist the temptation of going for their narrow national interests rather than work for upholding high values of human freedom and dignity.

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For most Americans, pragmatism means promotion of U.S. national interests to the exclusion of everything else. That is little more than petty nationalism. History has provided an opportunity to the Americans to get rid of this mind-set and attain a higher degree of leadership as a nation which believes in the universality of moral values and considers these as the mainstay of human society.

Another basic point to keep in focus is that Kashmiri people expect an active U.S. role in promoting a settlement of Kashmir dispute within the parameters of the UN resolutions which call for a free and fair plebiscite. Talk of a third option, which many suspect is being supported by the U.S., would render the UN resolutions irrelevant. The Indians want that very badly because the UN resolutions are what historically bind them to a final solution of the Kashmir dispute. They would love to see a situation where UN resolutions become redundant and the matter degenerates into a territorial dispute requiring demarcation of boundaries between the two countries. Pakistan and the people of Kashmir will never accept that. The future of Kashmir is to be determined by the people of Kashmir and that remains the main issue within the inseparable context of the partition of British India.

The Indians on their part keep saying that the people of Kashmir exercised their right of self-determination when they participated in the first general elections under Indian administration. They used elections as a substitute for a UN supervised plebiscite and this is what they are trying again to stage manage some sort of elections in Kashmir and interpret them as Kashmiris consent to live as part of India. The APHC stand against participating in any elections under Indian occupation is a reaffirmation of their stand that they want nothing short of freedom from India. That has remained the bottom line and will remain the main dispute between India and the people of Kashmir. Over the last 48 years, this has been Pakistan's position. Pakistan's principled stand is not likely to change now. It would continue to support the Kashmiris struggle for freedom from Indian occupation as per the UN resolutions. —

Leghari Offers 'Meaningful' Dialogue for Kashmir

BK1610143195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Kashmir is the core issue between India and Pakistan and the last item of the unfinished agenda of the partition of the subcontinent. He was talking to the members of British Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that Pakistan was willing to have a meaningful dialogue with India for a political solution of the problem which could not be solved through military means. He urged the United Kingdom and Commonwealth to play their due role in influencing India for the just cause of right of self-determination of the Kashmiris.

The president said that after the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir problem and restoration of peace in Afghanistan, the whole region could have mega-development projects like gas and oil pipelines in the Central Asian Republics, the Middle East, and South Asia.

UN Envoy Proposes Appointment of Kashmir Emissary

BK1810054495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has suggested appointment of a special representative of the UN Secretary General to collect correct information about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and facilitate the process for a meaningful dialogue for a solution of the Kashmir issue. The proposal was made by Senator Shafqat Mahmud, a member of Pakistan delegation while speaking on the report of the Secretary General of the work of the organization at the plenary meeting of the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday. Senator Shafqat Mahmud said that Pakistan agreed with the secretary general that there was an urgency of seeking a political solution through a meaningful dialogue. However, India had rejected all overtures made by Pakistan. Senator Shafqat Mahmud said the tension generated by Jammu and Kashmir dispute threatened both regional and international peace and security. Pakistan considered it absolutely vital that the United Nations should intercede to promote a just and peaceful solution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council. He urged the UN Commission on Human Rights to urgently dispatch a mission to Jammu and Kashmir to document massive human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces. Senator Shafqat Mahmud reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the United Nations role in peacekeeping.

Defense Spokesman Details Helicopter Purchase Plan

BK1310054595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Oct 95 p 1,11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi, Oct 11 — A spokesman of the Ministry of Defence, Defence Production Division has said a section of the Press keeps

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giving out disinformation about helicopter deal being negotiated by the directorate General of Defence Procurement of Ministry of Defence. The recent one is "another shady copter deal in offing" published in Daily Muslim Oct 10, 1995, says a press release of Ministry of Defence.

The spokesman clarified that the facts are that the negotiations are being carried out with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of MI-17/171 helicopters, which are only two in the world i.e. M/S KAZAN and M/S ULAM-UDE both form Russia, direct without any intermediaries.

The standard procedures laid down for procurement are being strictly observed in accordance with the requirements of the Indentor viz to purchase new helicopters to be manufactured in the presence of GHQ's [General Headquarters] technical team in order to ensure that helicopter of older vintage (after overhauling/repainting and using old parts) are not supplied. It is well known in the defence circles that a number of older helicopters are available in the market not only in Russia but in a number of other countries. Pakistan Army is not interested to procure such helicopters.

The spokesman further clarified that the representative of ULAN- UDE have returned to Russia for consultation with their headquarters while the delegation of KAZAN is till in Pakistan. This is normal practice in negotiations.

He requested, that speculation based on unsubstantiated allegations need to be avoided as they make the task of negotiation difficult and complicated.

OUR REPORTER AROOSA ALAM ADDS: While The Muslim stands by its story, it deems proper to point out that the clarification issued by the spokesman of Defence Production Division is no plausible manner provides any material facts or arguments to prove that the report carried in The Muslim on October 10, 95 was based on conjectures or disinformation about the way the negotiations are being conducted.

If the aim was only to negotiate the purchase of MI-17/171 from OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer), why was Poly Technology of China asked to bid for the tender as they do not manufacture MI- 17/171 helicopter. It is believed that Marine Systems of Sukhoi (MSS) at Moscow had also participated in collaboration with ULAN- UDE (OEM) being the major shareholders in the factory and had financially backed the deal to make it more attractive and cheaper by offering discount on the package price. This had substantially reduced the price to 1.8 billion US per helicopter as compared to 2.3 to 2.4 million US dollar per place offered by Kazan and, ULAN- UDE respectively, the confirmation by ULAN-UDE leader, Alexander Majorove was given in writing to DGDP (Director General Defense Production] that the MSS's commercial offer was fully supported by ULAN-UDE.

As for the condition of military to purchase new helicopters, it was confirmed by all the three bidders mentioned above except Poly Technology of China who did not bid, that brand new 1995 model helicopters would be supplied with guarantees. In fact MSS has also offered 5 percent performance bond against the supply which was subject to inspection and acceptance by the purchaser. It is however, beyond The Muslim's comprehension as to how a manufacturer will provide new helicopters with old and overhauled parts and repaint them without being detected by a technical experts team. Therefore, the official clarification fails to justify the negotiations with Kazan at a price of 2.3 million US dollars against the price of MSS which is of 1.8 million US dollar under this plea.

The claim by the spokesman of Ministry of Defence Production that the helicopters will be manufactured in the presence of a technical team of GHQ is another attempt to mislead the readers. Incidentally, in no case the purchaser's team stands on manufacturer's heads to ensure the production of aircraft or helicopter or any other equipment they have ordered. There is no such precedent. The only universally accepted practice is that a thorough inspection of goods is carried out by a technical team before the final acceptance to detect any discrepancy or defect. Agreed, old helicopters are available in the market which are marked clearly with their year of manufacture and number of hours flown in their respective log books. And there is no way these could be tempered. How is it possible to enhance the model and record in the log books to turn them into a brand new aircraft.

The ULAN-UDE team led by Mr. Majorov have gone back to Russia not for consultations as the leader had full authority to sign and finalise the deal. They have left utterly disappointed, having spent three weeks at Pearl Continental, whose bill was footed by the local agent. Of course KAZAN team is here as they were assured of the contract and another few days time the deal will be signed at the price of their choice. In the end, the Muslim wishes to point out that it had published the report in order to bring about some accountability as it was feared that undue advantage was being offered to some favorites to finalise the deal, thereby causing loss to the public tax/payers' hard earned money.

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Sindh Minister Stresses Need for Karachi Talks

BK1410084095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has reiterated his government's stance that the problems in Karachi can be resolved only through negotiations between the government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement Altaf Group in a spirit of goodwill. In an interview with Pakistan Press International in Karachi, he emphasized that political issues cannot be resolved by taking up arms. He said an elected government is intact in the country and the people enjoy basic rights. Therefore, there is no justification for someone to resort to the means of terrorism to realize his objectives. The chief minister said: we have evidence that foreign-trained terrorists are involved in the incidents in Karachi and illegal weapons and sophisticated communication equipment are being sent to the city. He also referred to various projects that are being completed to provide basic amenities to the people of Karachi. Condemning the strikes being motivated by Altaf Group, he said serious damage is being caused to the national economy due to strikes in Karachi. He said that despite the attempts of antinational elements, uninterrupted investments are being made in Sindh Province and a number of foreign investors, who recently met him, have expressed their interest in joint ventures in various sectors.

According to a press note, three persons were killed and four injured in shootings by unknown miscreants in various parts of Karachi today.

Sri Lanka

Government Troops Launch Operation To Take Jaffna

BK1810063595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0444 GMT 18 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 17 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — Sri Lanka's security forces led from upfront by the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force and with the presence of Deputy Minister of Defence Anuruddha Ratwatte in Jaffna, launched operation 'Rivirsa' (rays of the sun), the first phase to re-take Jaffna from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], at dawn Tuesday [17 October], and were reported to have made good progress at the end of the day with the LTTE terrorists having suffered heavy casualties, senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH.

The Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said in a press release that at the end of the day one of the operation LTTE terrorists had declared over their radio that they had suffered heavy casualties during the confrontation and that the bodies of 11 dead Tigers have been recovered so far.

Meanwhile, security forces lost one officer and 18 other ranks killed in action and seven officers and 150 other ranks wounded. Three infantry fighting vehicles were hit by enemy rocket propelled grenade and mortar fire.

The press release also said the operation commenced at 0540 hours [0010 GMT] Tuesday with troops advancing southwards. Infantry troops were supported by armour, artillery, and engineers.

There was less resistance during initial stages of the advances. However, when troops stretched they came under heavy resistance along line Kuppilan and Achchelu.

Troops came across prepared positions of the terrorists. However, troops advanced through heavy resistance.

Operation 'Rivirasa' is being led by Army Commander LT. General Gerry de Silva, Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Oliver Ranasinghe and Naval Commander Vice Admiral Mohan Samarasekere.

Senior military sources said government troops had broken out of the new forward defence locality of the Palaly military base at Atchuvely at first light and were advancing.

The security forces in operation 'Thunder Strike' last week extended the forward defence locality by 25 square kilometres of the Palaly military base, in which 105 terrorists resisting the advance were killed.

The LTTE has been carrying out a 20-year campaign of terrorism against the Sri Lankan Government and their Tamil opponents in an attempt to establish a separate state of Eelam in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The LTTE which reneged on peace talks with the People's Alliance Government led by President Chandrika Kumaratunga last year, launched Eelam war-III on 19 April in direct violation of a cessation of hostilities agreement.

Over 50,000 persons — men, women, and children have been killed in the LTTE'S campaign of terrorism.

Its first murder was the slaying of the mayor of Jaffna Alfred Duraiappah in 1975.

The LTTE, described as the most ruthless terrorist organisation in the world, has assassinated several leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake, Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, Tamil United Liberation Front Leader (TULF) Appapillai Amirthalingam and

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Tamils opposed to the LTTE. It also wiped out the entire leadership of Tamil militant organisations such as TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] (in madras).

Last Sunday, it allegedly attempted to assassinate EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] leader Douglas Devananda at his residence in Colombo.

'Ferocious' Fighting Follows Operation

BK1710154195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (AFP) — Ferocious fighting gripped northern Sri Lanka Tuesday [17 October] as the Tamil Tiger rebels resorted to suicide attacks to blunt an army advance and raised the day's death toll to 89, the military said.

Some 7,000 ground troops, backed by tanks, armoured cars and air support, launched operation Rivirsa (rays of the sun) against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inside their northern stronghold of Jaffna, defence sources said.

"There is very intense hand-to-hand fighting going on. So far, we have lost 18 soldiers and one officer killed and 157 men wounded. We have recovered the bodies of 11 terrorists," Military Spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

Aid officials said that the fighting was concentrated just south of the sprawling Palaly military complex, located on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula, and that civilians had fled before the fighting at dawn Tuesday.

Thousands of civilians abandoned their homes because they expected the fighting after the air force dropped leaflets at the weekend urging people to move away from LTTE facilities, an aid official said.

Military Spokesman Munasinghe said the Tigers offered stiff resistance and had destroyed three armoured vehicles. Defence sources said Tigers were resorting to suicidal attacks to prevent the military advance.

Earlier, in the day, two Tiger suicide frogmen blasted a navy ship at the northeastern port of Trincomalee, killing nine sailors. A third suicide bomber was shot dead before he could blow up another vessel, a military statement said.

The fighting in Jaffna, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of here was felt in the capital as people saw fleets of ambulances speeding to the main hospital here taking the wounded who were flown to a domestic airport near here.

"The difference we are seeing this time is that we are coming across a lot of close quarter fighting. In the past, we encountered more mortar attacks from the Tigers," Munasinghe said.

He declined to say what the objective of the offensive was but said it was launched from Ponnalaikadduwan, a small town just south of the main Palaly military complex located on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula.

Defence sources said junior Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte and Army Chief Gerry de Silva were in Palaly directing the latest offensive.

In a similar drive earlier this month, the Army captured a 25- square-kilometre (12-square-mile) area from the Tamil Tigers.

Defence analysts said the latest army drive was probably a prelude to an onslaught to capture the town of Jaffna, about seven kilometres (five miles) away from army lines.

Jaffna is the ultimate prize for Sri Lankan security forces and the final bastion of Tamil separatism which the Tigers have vowed to defend to their last man.

There was no immediate word from the LTTE about the latest fighting, but a statement from its London office said the Army attempted to break out of their defences on Sunday but were beaten back, a claim denied by the Army.

The heaviest loss of life was reported Tuesday in an overnight jungle battle in the island's eastern Batticaloa region where 32 soldiers and at least 15 Tiger guerrillas were killed, defence sources said.

The latest violence also ended a week-long lull in fighting in the embattled northern and eastern regions where the Tigers are struggling to establish an independent homeland for the two million Tamil minority.

More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting the 23-year- old separatist conflict.

Nine Killed in LTTE Suicide Attack on Ship

BK1710113595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Black Sea Tigers launched an underwater suicidal attack on naval auxiliary vessel A-512 which was anchored in the Trincomalee harbor. This ship was manned by naval and civil crew to transport food items to security forces and civilians in the north. The ship was destroyed due to the underwater explosion. As a

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result of the explosion, two naval officers, five sailors and two civilians on board were killed. Six sailors were wounded. Naval divers recovered the body of a Black Sea Tiger and another body yet to be identified. At the same time, one more Black Sea Tiger had approached a naval craft (?secured) alongside another jetty to launch an underwater attack. This was detected by naval personnel and the attacker was killed [while] trying to closing in. The body of the Black Sea Tiger was recovered along with diving equipment and a bomb which weighed over 30 kg.

Meanwhile, heavily armed pirates have looted several cargoes in two ships anchored at harbor in Colombo this morning. The pirates brandishing weapons entered these two ships — (Tass Print) and (Orand Mission) — threatened the crew and ransacked the two vessels. Representatives of the shipping lines said that the value of the losses has not been estimated. DIG [deputy inspector general of police] in charge of Colombo, G.B. Kotakadeniya, attributed the piracy to the inadequate security measures in the outer harbor. Investigations are continuing.

Forces Kill 3 Militants in Chenkaladi Operation

BK1710114395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces personnel killed three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists during an operation launched in Chenkaladi in the Batticaloa District. The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry says the troops suffered no casualties.

In a separate incident, one civilian was killed and three policemen injured when the LTTE exploded a Claymore mine near the Toppur police post, south of Trincomalee. The attack had been directed at a group of off-duty policemen who had gone to bathe in a nearby river.

Fifteen Rebels, 12 Soldiers Said Killed

BK1810071895 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0454 GMT 18 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 17 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — Terrorists suffered heavy casualties in a three hour gunbattle with government troops in which one officer and 12 soldiers were killed and 23 wounded, at Chenkaladi in the eastern Batticaloa District, Wednesday [18 October]. [sentence as published]

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the Polonnaruwa hospital and from there transferred to Colombo for further treatment.

A press release issued by the Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence states troops had confronted the terrorists at 0740 hours (local time) during a an offensive operation being conducted at Chenkaladi, where government troops advanced towards the Thamparaveli area.

Around 1445 hrs (local time) troops had come under rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and small arms fire. Troops retaliated effectively causing heavy casualties among the terrorists and forcing them to flee in the firefight, which lasted three hours.

Ltte [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] radio transmissions monitored so far, indicate that 15 terrorists were killed in confrontation.

Ministry Denies Reports of Starvation in Jaffna

BK1410114895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Shipping, Posts, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction denies that the people in Jaffna are starving. It says that some interested parties are reported to have said that the people in the north are not having sufficient food and are starving. A ministry's release says the government had to date sent approximately 50,000 metric tons of food and essential cargoes amounting to around 785 million rupees. These shipments had been made between January and September this year. It points out that the foods were sent despite many difficulties faced by the Commissioner General of Essential Services and several restrictions placed by antigovernment elements in that area. In addition, the [word indistinct] vessels had also taken nearly 35,000 metric tons of essential cargoes during this period. The ministry says that at present a ship is being loaded with 1,000 metric tons of flour at Trincomalee. It is expected to reach Point Pedro in the next three days. This will be a continuous feature hereafter. A Mannar-bound vessel has been diverted to load 1,000 tonnes of rice during the next week for Point Pedro. Another vessel is being loaded with around 7,000 barrels of kerosene cargo at Colombo for the same destination. The Shipping Corporation has been requested to obtain a vessel to send rice, sugar, and dal [lentils] in due course this month. The ministry hopes that the food situation in the north will ease with these shipments.

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Central Bank Releases Foreign Trade Figures

BK1310050295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 13 Oct 95

[Report by Central Bank of Sri Lanka — received via internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to adjusted Customs data, Sri Lanka's external trade in July 1995 recorded a deficit of US$ 92 million compared with a deficit of US$ 61 million in July 1994. Export earnings amounted to US$ 329 million, an increase of seven per cent over July 1994. The import outlay increased by 14 per cent from US$ 368 million in July 1994 to US$ 421 million in July 1995.

Industrial exports, which accounted for 77 per cent of export earnings in July 1995 grew by nine per cent to US$ 254 million due to increased earnings from textiles and garments and petroleum products exports. The earnings from textiles and garments rose from US$ 148 million to US$ 167 million recording a growth of 13 per cent over July 1994 while the earnings from petroleum products exports grew from US$ 6 million to US$ 8 million.

Meanwhile, earnings from other industrial exports remained at the same level as in July 1994 at US$ 79 million although indicating an increase of four per cent in rupee terms. Earnings from agricultural exports dropped by three per cent from US$ 66 million in July 1994 to US$ 64 million in July 1995, reflecting the negative impact of reduced volumes of tea, rubber and minor agricultural exports which off-set the favourable impact of the improved international prices for all these commodities. The earnings from mineral exports increased from US$ 6 million to US$ 8 million entirely due to an increase in other mineral exports such as ilmenite, metallic ores and iron pyrites.

Expenditure on imports of consumer goods decreased from US$ 81 million in July 1994 to US$ 79 million in July 1995 largely due to decreases in imports of sugar (70 per cent) and rice (98 per cent).

Meanwhile, major increases were recorded in imports of milk and milk products (100 per cent) and fish products (40 per cent). Imports of intermediate goods rose by 49 per cent to US$ 258 million in July 1995, due to increases in the imports of petroleum (86 per cent) and other intermediate goods (63 per cent). In July 1995 imports of wheat grain and muslin amounted to US$ 31 million. In contrast, decreases were recorded in the imports of fertilizer (67 per cent).

Imports of investment goods recorded a decline of 26 per cent in July 1995 when compared with the same month of the previous year. All sub categories of investment goods recorded decreases except other investment goods. Accordingly, decreases were recorded in building materials (32 per cent), machinery and equipment (31 per cent), and transport equipment (15 per cent) while the imports of other investment goods remained unchanged at the same levels recorded in July 1994. During the first seven months of 1995, Sri Lanka's exports rose by 20 per cent from 1,721 million to US$ 2,072 million while imports increased by 19 per cent from US$ 2,493 million, to US$ 2,973 million.

The trade deficit in the first seven months rose from US$ 772 million in 1994 to US$ 901 million in 1995. However, when the value of the aircraft imported in March 1995 (US$ 104 million) was excluded, the trade deficit showed a marginal deterioration.

Earnings from all three major categories of exports recorded increases during the first seven months of 1995, when compared with the corresponding period the previous year. Industrial and agricultural exports rose by 21 per cent and 19 per cent to US$ 1,560 million and US$ 454 million, respectively, while the earnings from mineral exports rose by 7 per cent from US$ 44 million to US$ 47 million.

The rise in industrial exports was reflected in textile and garments (23 per cent) and other industrial exports (21 per cent). In contrast, the exports of petroleum products recorded a decline of seven per cent partly due to the temporary closure of the oil refinery from mid January to end February 1995. The growth in agricultural exports earnings was reflected in all three major traditional agricultural exports. i.e. rubber (84 per cent), coconut (39 per cent) and tea (one per cent).

The earnings from mineral exports grew by seven per cent to US$ 47 million, reflecting an increase in the earnings of other mineral exports such as ilmenite and metallic ores and iron pyrites which completely off-set the reduction in earnings of gem exports which were adversely affected by lower demand from the USA and Japan and increased competition from other gem exporting countries, including India, Madagascar and Tanzania which produce the same quality gems as Sri Lanka at more competitive prices. The rise in imports during the first seven months of 1995 was observed in all three major categories of imports i.e. intermediate goods (29 per cent), investment goods (16 per cent) and consumer goods (5 per cent).

Imports of consumer goods rose from US$ 531 million to US$ 558 million, largely due to increases recorded in milk and milk products (45 per cent) and other consumer goods (11 per cent). In contrast, imports of rice and sugar dropped by 83 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively. Imports of intermediate goods rose

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from US$ 1,310 million to US$ 1,686 million due to increases in imports of all categories of intermediate goods, i.e. wheat and muslin (125 per cent), petroleum (38 per cent), fertilizer (36 per cent), other intermediate goods (28 per cent), and textile and clothing (18 per cent). Imports of investment goods increased from US$ 620 million to US$ 717 million largely due to a significant increase (69 per cent) recorded in transport equipment due to the importation of an aircraft to the value of US$ 104 million. However, when the value of the aircraft was excluded the imports of transport equipment showed a decline of 10 per cent thereby leading to a marginal decline in the imports of total investment goods. Imports of building materials and other investment goods recorded increased of four per cent and 12 per cent, respectively while the imports of machinery and equipment dropped marginally by two per cent.

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